

Like Our Master in Service and Holiness

John 13:1-20 ¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

❖ Recap

- Last Week we finished up with Jesus last public ministry words...
- John was explaining what He had seen happen
- Many did not Believe...
 - Such a sad statement... so sad... that the Son of God came to the earth and He was barely Received
- John explain it by quoting two chapters from the book of Isaiah
 - Isaiah 6
 - Isaiah 53
- Then we see Jesus speaking again...
 - Giving what is like a summary of His ministry and purpose in coming.
 - Reiterating one more time His message and the point of it...
- Practically for us:

❖ Intro

- Extremely Practical and insightful verses today...
- The lesson is right on the surface and should be easy to spot for any reader...
- There are some things hidden in the text that we should notice
 - When I say hidden, I do not mean like a mystery code...
 - But said in passing and could get lost if we only focus on the main point of the verses...
 - Especially in the first 3 verses... there are a lot of practical truths...
 - Practical Truths...

- ◆ I was going to say Theological Nuggets...
- ◆ I simply mean... there are things here that God, through John is revealing about Himself, Us, and Satan that help us understand God better
- And then there is one thing that goes a little deeper that must be explained
 - And it is a glorious thing for us to learn
 - And also for us to apply...

❖ Some Theological Nuggets or Practical Truths...

- ¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,
- **When...** Likely the Thursday before He is crucified ... Most likely this is the time of the Lord's supper
 - And Judas is right now going out to betray Him...
- **Jesus Knew:** (his hour had come to depart out of this world...also knowing the Father had given all things into his hands...
 - **One thing we notice from reading the book of John I s how much Jesus knows**
 - In yet another example of Jesus being able to know what the future had for Him...
 - And He knew this, not in a general way...
 - But in great detail..
 - **Consider the reality of knowing the future...**
 - How hard is it for us to guess, even in an educated way what will happen in our future...
 - Sure... we can say some general things... But to do it with the specifics that Jesus does would be remarkable...
 - Many of you couldn't even guess what you would have for lunch today....
 - ◆ Cause your mind might change...
 - **Jesus Knowledge of the future Revealed His Deity... which should result in our worship of Jesus**
 - When you come face to face with one who knows all things even the future...
 - You know you are dealing with God...
 - ◆ Isaiah 46:9-10⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'
- **Jesus Loves His Own, Even Until the End**
 - **Jesus Loved them regardless of whether they deserved it...**
 - These guys were going about their own way before Jesus came along...
 - And we can not say that they really caught on all too well while they were with Jesus.
 - They had their good moments... but...
 - We saw a lot of bickering from them
 - We saw a lack of faith from them
 - We saw them unable to comprehend His parables

- We saw them fussing over who would be the greatest...
- We saw them wanting to call down thunder out of heaven
- We see them scatter at his arrest
- We see them hide and deny Him...
- **Yet He loved his own until the end...**
 - What a wonderful lesson for you and me...
 - How great it is to know that our Savior's love will last...
 - He loved them "to the end"
 - This does not mean He loved them till He died and then stopped loving them...
 - It means His love was and is continual...
- **Application**
 - You and I mess up a lot...
 - We have sin problems...
 - We have self esteem problems...
 - We want to look good enough or sound smart enough or be funny enough so people will love us
 - But Jesus love is there for all His children...
 - And it is all true long lasting eternal love
 - His love means something...
 - In the same way He knew the Father had given Him all things, you need to know
 - ◆ That if you have received Him...
 - ◆ He loves you greatly....
 - So stop running from Him... And Run to him...
 - ◆ Even though you have messed up a million times already...
 - Satan is working.... You see it here...
 - ◆ And He wants to keep you from reconciling with God...
 - ◆ And from walking in forgiveness and victory... Do not listen to Him...

➤ **Satan is Working**

- **During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him**
 - Don't be caught off guard by this
- **We learn 2 main things here I think...**
 - The devil is working on the man Judas
 - He tempts Judas to betray Jesus...
- **Know your enemy...**
 - You must know that we are in a battle every day...
 - I am not going to share all the verses in the Bible that tell us this...
 - But know that the Bible teaches that Satan roams about like a hungry lion...
 - ◆ Wanting to devour his prey...
 - He is not suffering in hell right now... that day is coming...
 - But now, God is allowing Him to tempt us and work against Him....

- **But Jesus is about to crush Him... Know this...**
- **Do not fail to recognize that you are susceptible to His attacks...**
 - Especially the person not protected by the Spirit of God...
 - If you have never been born again...
 - Satan can almost has his way with you...
 - Do not listen to His lies like Judas did...
 - Judas had God right in front of Him and missed it...
 - Jesus wasn't what Judas wanted from His God, so He failed to recognize it
 - Do not let that happen to You...
- **Yet All Things Were His (knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands)**
 - 1 Corinthians 8:6 ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- **Jesus knew that He was going to win... And He would get all things...**
 - He knew He had come from God and was going back...
 - Even though He was living a humble life... without a place to lay His head or call Home...
 - Jesus knows He is about to win...
 - And now he about to do the strangest thing of any person that ever knew such a thing...
 - ◆ Like the Lottery winner showing up at his minimum wage job the next day
 - ◆ Like becoming a breakout star on a team and carrying everyone else's equipment
- He stoops to serve them...

❖ **Jesus Serves Those Whom He Loves**

- ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

➤ **Even Greater Act When You Consider**

- **The heart of the disciples...**
 - Mark 10:36-37 ³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."
 - Mark 9:33-35 ³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

➤ **Jesus the Submissive Servant**

- **After John says that the Father had given all things into His Hands...**
 - He says Jesus rose from supper...
 - ◆ Laid aside his outer garments... wrapped a towel around himself
 - ◆ Poured water into a basin and began to wash their feet and wipe them with His towel
- **Instead of basking in the glow of power and authority,**
 - Jesus emptied (*kenoun*) or humbled himself and adopted the form of a servant
 - Touching feet was regarded as menial slave work
 - Was primarily an assignment given to Gentile slaves and women.

- Students were responsible to rabbis or teachers to perform menial tasks of labor,
 - ◆ but touching feet was clearly not expected.

➤ **One of The Greatest Displays Of God's Character and Glory**

- Do Not Miss This!
- Jesus lovingly and humbly served His students... His children... His creation...
- And He is going to make sure they do not miss what He was doing...

➤ **Connection to verse 20**

- Jesus Sends servants...
- You will see in verse 20 He is speaking of people receiving those He sends...
- He is teaching the disciples that they must be like Him in their serving when He sends them
- All true messengers of Jesus... (of Him you should be)
 - Must be servant like... We must mimic our Savior's example...
 - If we do not mimic the example of Christ... We are usually mimicking another's example...
 - And I say live in fear of following the Devil the way Judas followed Him...
 - Judas didn't want to serve... Rather He wanted to be served...
 - ◆ And that was apparent...

➤ **Application:**

- How are we? How do we do? How are we doing at serving those around us?

❖ **Staying Clean While We Are Clean**

- ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

➤ **Peter objects...**

- Peter... thinks this is below His Lord to do this...
- Or He thinks himself as too low as to be served by Jesus...
- And surely there is some innocence there I would think...

➤ **Be washed or have no share with Jesus...**

- Jesus tells Peter that He must wash His feet or Peter can have no share... or part with Jesus...
- So Peter decides He wants a full bath.... His whole body...
- And then we see a great spiritual nugget...
 - Ready to be uncovered and used daily...

➤ **We have been cleansed**

- We are completely clean already...
- Even though we still need our feet clean...

➤ **What does He mean by this:**

- Surely He is speaking of our cleansing through believing in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus...
- When the person trusts in Jesus... His sins are washed away... He is cleansed...
 - Completely...

- He says... you are completely clean... doesn't say partly dirty...
- **Yet He tells us if we have bathed, we do not need to be cleaned... except for our feet....**
 - But that we are completely clean...
- **He is teaching us that we still have to walk in this world...**
 - And when you walk in the world... You are going to get a little dirty with sins from time to time...
 - But... all are sins are forgiven for we have been cleansed...
 - But.. our walk with God gets messed up by our sins...
 - Therefore we need that daily confession and repentance to keep our fellowship with God where it should be...
 - ♦ Psalm 66:18 ¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
- **Key verse explaining this:**
 - 1 John 1:8-9 ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - 1 John 2:1 ¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

❖ **Jesus Makes Sure They Understand... And Us Too**

- ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, **“Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.**
- **Do you understand?** – he wants to make sure they know what just happened...
 - And it is also in the text for us to see as well...
 - It is there for us to ask the same question to ourselves...
 - Do I understand what He just did...
- **I am your Teacher and Lord...**
 - You should mimic your teacher and Lord... If I do something... you should do it...
 - Wash one another's feet
- **Jesus gives the example:**
 - The greatest Teacher is the one who stoops to serve...
 - If it is acceptable for me to do this... It should be ok for you to do it...
- **By doing this... Jesus destroyed Logical Earthly thinking...**
 - We have to put ourselves first if we want to get ahead...
 - It is ok if we step on some folks...
 - He is trying to help us see that there is no need for rank... It doesn't matter
 - The only thing matters is who is serving others...
- **How often do we fail at this?**
 - Wives and husbands
 - Parents and children

- Friends
- Workers
- Teachers and students

❖ **Blessed if You Do Them**

- ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

➤ **You Are Not Greater than Jesus...**

- This goes without saying doesn't it... But I think He is reminding us because...
 - Saying it and knowing it do not matter if we do not follow it up...
 - We can find that joy and happiness that is elusive... if we DO these things He telling us about
- **We are not greater than our God...**
 - Yet we act like we are... that is our tendency...
 - We act like we are too big or smart or mature
 - ◆ To serve those around us...
 - ◆ After the disciples had argued about who is the greatest... Jesus does this...
 - Mark 9:36-37 ³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

❖ **Jesus Affirms His God Nature**

- ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

➤ **Jesus Knows**

- Reminding them... and Us of His Sovereignty... Jesus knows all things...

➤ **Judas Was Taught And Served Graciously, Yet He Still Betrayed Jesus**

- First of all.... You need to know... Judas was not forced to do this...
- Satan had planted it into the heart of Judas
- He had sat under Jesus teaching for three years...
- He saw all of His miracles...
- And then He was served by Jesus... (This is a crucial moment in the life of Judas)

➤ **Remember last week...**

- Isaiah sees Jesus as glorious and holy in ch 6...
- But then He sees Him lowly and despised in Ch 53...
- He laments over very few hearing his message...
- He laments that their heart is hardened...
- And they could not receive Jesus because He came
 - Lowly and ready to die....

➤ **Not their idea of a Messiah... Not their Idea of God...**

- Same things for Judas...
- Jesus was not what Judas was looking for...

- The washing of the feet should have won Judas over.... Right...
- Well... it did the opposite...
- It was at that point that He almost immediately gets up and leaves to betray Jesus...
- The foot washing did not fit his worldview... His view of God either...

➤ **Application**

- Quit using your own brain to come up with God's ways and thoughts...
- Look solely to the Scriptures...
- If you do not... you will not be pardoned for your ignorance...
- Because your ignorance is masked in laziness and rebellion against God
- And Satan has placed it into your hearts... To betray the Son of God
 - So you can claim to be know Him... yet live for yourself...

❖ **He Sends**

- ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

➤ **Jesus is Sending us Out...**

- To our neighbors and friends and strangers....
- He is sending us out in His name...
- And His name is the Father's name...

➤ **The person that receives the messenger of Jesus...**

- He receives Jesus...
- And the person who receives Jesus...
- Receives God the Father as well...

➤ **One more time He says it...**

- There is no salvation apart from Jesus...
- When He is received.... God is received...

➤ **And He is sending us out**

- As servants...
- Not as judgmental hypocrites
- Who look down on unbelievers and very sinful people...
- Rather... He is sending us to serve them and reach them...
- By praying for them and giving them the gospel and serving them

❖ **Invitation:**

- How are you doing today?
- Are you serving?
- Are you daily getting your feet washed?
- Are you someone He can send?