

# “The Gospel of John: Example Service”

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## Scripture

### John 13:1-20

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, **He loved them to the end**. During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him.”

3Jesus, **knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God**, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

6So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "**Lord, do You wash my feet?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "**Never shall You wash my feet!**" Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’”

9Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and **you are clean, but not all of you.**" For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason, He said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’”

12So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "**Do you know what I have done to you?** You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "**For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.**”

16"Truly, truly, I say to you, **a slave is not greater than his master**, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, **you are blessed if you do them.**”

18"**I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen;** but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. '**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me’.**”

## Last Week

Jesus’s last public words to the Jews

We will all face the Father’s Judgment -> the question is, “Do you know your future destination?”

## This Week

Jesus retreats with His disciples to pour His mission into them – **what topic would you lead with?**

We’ll be discussing various pieces of truth over the next 5 chapters, John 13 through 17

We'll look today at what I call "Example Service" -> **What Jesus calls us to do in regard to one another**

## Loved To the Very End

### John 13:1-2

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.** During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him."

John remembers the events when Jesus was alone with the disciples

We see that John remembers the love of Jesus most of all

Knowing that Jesus was about to leave the Earth to return to the Father

His hour had come

John remembers the love fondly

**Jesus loved His own**

**Jesus still loves His own**

**"He loved them to the end"** -> Completely and to the uttermost end

He couldn't have loved them anymore or any better

**How many of you could say that about your spouse? or about your Mom or Dad?**

John experienced a perfect love from Jesus

John also remembers Judas's actions

He learned that the devil influenced Judas -> Judas set out to betray Jesus

### John 17:12

"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled."

Peter discussed Judas's betrayal:

### Acts 1:16-20

"Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which **the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas**, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. "For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called *Hakeldama*, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, **LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT'; and, 'LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.'**"

Peter quotes Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8 here -> "Let his days be few; **let another take his office**"

Judas was prophesied to be Jesus's betrayer

So, the devil could and did influence Judas -> the devil can influence us with society and words

The devil cannot inhabit a believer, however

Sneezing -> a moment of weakness?

So, did the devil make Judas do it?

The devil cannot make us do things, but if evil is in our heart, we can be influenced by the devil

Judas was influenced because his heart was already evil -> he used to steal from the disciples' purse!

## The Servant's Position

### John 13:3-5

"Jesus, **knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God**, got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."

Jesus knew He was going back to Heaven

The Father gave Him authority -> **Matthew 28:18**

He was the King of Glory! **He was the Master!** He was the One to be Praised!

So, what does He do here?

Jesus "got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded"

Jesus assumed the position of a servant -> dressed as a servant and acted the part of a servant

The most menial task of a servant in a dusty climate was to wash people's feet

Do you have a servant's heart?

"You'll never know you have a servant's heart until someone treats you like one!"

Did Jesus come to serve?

Shouldn't He be the One to BE served?

### Mark 10:45

"For **even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Jesus said this right after the disciples were arguing about who would sit on the right and left of Jesus

Jesus said the true test of loving service is the willingness to give your life for another

### John 15:13

"**Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.**"

Jesus placed Himself in the Servant position

Peter, though, couldn't believe what he was seeing:

### Peter's Objection

#### John 13:6-8

"So, He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "**Lord, do You wash my feet?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "**Never shall You wash my feet!**" Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'"

Peter often spoke for the disciples

What do you think they were feeling -> seeing Jesus bow to wash their feet?

Could you hear them thinking, "What is HE DOING???"

Peter cannot keep quiet -> "Do you wash my feet?"

Jesus informs Peter that he will understand the act later but isn't understanding it now

Peter doesn't want to hear of it and exclaims, "NEVER shall you wash my feet!"

Lots of people today do not let the Lord wash their feet

They can do it themselves -> Personal pride overwhelms them -> sad, but true

"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." -> "You need Me, Peter. You cannot do it alone."

What needs to be done for you that ONLY Jesus can do, church?

#### John 14:6

"Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**"

Song -> "Jesus is the Answer, for the world today. Above Him there's no other. Jesus is the Way!"

Peter certainly wants part of Jesus, so he jumps in with both feet:

### Completely Washed

#### John 13:9-11

"Simon Peter said to Him, "**Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.**" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason, He said, 'Not all of you are clean.'"

Peter says, "Hey Lord, then I'll take a shower!"

Do the head, do the hands, gimme the full treatment

Jesus responds with the deeper meaning about His action

"He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean" -> "you're clean, Peter"

The word for "clean" is *katharos*, meaning "pure, unstained, spiritually clean"

Not only clean but “completely” clean -> *holos* -> holistically clean

One commentator wrote that we only need to clean the dirt (sinfulness) from the world off our feet

We only need to be spiritually cleansed once, though -> being washed by the blood is a single event

You only need to walk the aisle once, commit your life to Jesus once, and get baptized once

After that, you are completely justified -> seen as righteous before God

“**you are clean, but not all of you.**” -> Jesus knew the hearts of those disciples -> not everyone was clean

John comments about what he found out afterward about Judas -> he was not clean

After washing their feet, it was time to teach:

### Example Service

#### John 13:12-15

“So, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”**”

“Do you know what I have done to you?”

Did the disciples understand what Jesus was showing them?

Perhaps not, but Jesus will teach them

“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am”

You say I’m the Master -> You’re right! -> “I AM”

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.” -> “example” is “a pattern to follow”

Being the Lord of all...

Jesus became humble:

#### Philippians 2:3-8

“**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit**, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Jesus was the Example Servant -> even to the point of His death

We should all strive for His example of unselfish, genuine humility

#### Romans 12:1

“Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual, **reasonable service**”

**Galatians 5:13** -> "through love serve one another"

Jesus continues in His lesson:

### **Blessedly Humble**

#### **John 13:16-17**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, **a slave is not greater than his master**, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, **you are blessed if you do them.**"

A slave is not above his master

The disciples have already called Jesus, "Lord" -> He was above them all in priority

"If you know these things, **you are blessed if you do them.**"

It's not about "knowing" you should be humble...

...it's about actually being humble

The blessing comes from putting your humility on display

#### **Matthew 5:16**

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that **they may see your good works** and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Is that a knowing verse OR a doing verse?

What task is too menial for you to do for a brother or sister in Christ?

Changing a baby -> at age 70?

### **The Knowledge of the Chosen**

#### **John 13:18-20**

"**I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen**; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. '**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me**.'"

Lastly, Jesus calls out Judas for what is to come -> quoting **Psalm 41:9** -> the "friend" turned "enemy"

He gives them a prophecy to come -> Jesus will be betrayed by one of their own -> a number of these (14:29)

"**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me**.'"

Jesus tells the disciples that the reception they get reveals the people's heart toward Jesus

They will be His agents in the mission -> His servants in the harvest

Are we willing to be His servant today and follow His example?

### **Prayer - Benediction**