

# THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

## CHAPTER 13:1-17

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**"The Lord of the Towel"**

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

**John 1:12**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

TOPICAL SUBJECT SEARCH KEYWORDS:

**Service, Humility, Forgiveness, Example**

**INTRODUCTION**

***to the text***

***John 13:1-17***

## I Have Seen Some Pretty Cool Things Thus Far in My Lifetime

I have had the chance to see first-hand the Glories of some of the most powerful nations on the face of the earth.

### **In London**

I have seen the "crown jewels" and "Golden Scepter" of the Realm of england ...

### **In Washington**

I have seen of The White House of the United States of America...

**Each of Them Have Their Earthly Glory and Each of them I Suppose are Impressive In Their Own Right**

# But These Things Speak of Human Powers

## **But There is a Kingdom**

where nothing of this world can compare. – A Kingdom of Heavenly Selfless Love and Never Ending Peace and Unconditional Acceptance

...therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, **that we may serve God** acceptably with reverence and holy awe

...dear brothers, were called to freedom. But do not use your freedom to indulge your own sinful and selfish passions; rather, **serve one another in love.**

**John 17:23**

“Father, I in them, and You are in Me; that they may be made complete in one, **and that the world may know** that You have sent Me, and that I have loved them”

## *Jesus is in Fact* **The Lord of the Towel**

Of a kingdom of servants who shall inherit eternity

## **The Lord of The Towel**

### **1.) The Servant Heart of Jesus**

**vv. 1-5**

1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus **knew** that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having 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 to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded with.

**Now before the feast of the Passover**, when Jesus **knew** that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, He, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end.

**“Now before the feast of the Passover”  
These Events are Happening Very Late in the Night on a Thursday**

We are now about 15 to 18 hours away  
from the cross

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Between now and the end, Jesus will give life-changing teachings on Christian service, Love, The Holy Spirit, Heaven, Our union with Him, The Rapture of the Church, and Prayer

Remembering the Three Holy Days of the Passion Week

#1

Passover

#2

Unleavened Bread

#3

First Fruits

Jesus **knew** that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, He, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end.

## A Verse, Bigger Than Life Itself

Jesus **knew** that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father

FOR JESUS - THERE MUST HAVE BE REFLIEF IN KNOWING THIS

**“Soon I will be going home where I belong”**

He, **having loved His own** who were in the world,  
He loved them unto the end.

John 18:9

**"Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."**

You Dear Christian, You're Going to Be Loved Unto The End

HE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT YOU NOR HARM YOU  
You will never again be molested by this world's abuses

## For This Reason Heaven Says

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

The End here on Earth,  
is the Beginning  
There in Heaven

### **b.) v.2-4**

2 And supper being ended, the devil having 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 he **rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.**

**Grk** **Rose** from supper

The "Rose" is in the Present tense, meaning that Jesus rises and goes forth to wash feet even still. He is in the ministry of washing feet.

## A Perpetual Ministry

Acts 7:55

But Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and **Jesus standing** at the right hand of God,

## Isn't Jesus Offering a Perpetual Ministry to You Now

Hebrews 7:24-25

But Jesus, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost all those who come to God through Him, since He always lives **to make intercession for them.**

## A Perpetual Ministry

John 16:7

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

**c.) v.5**

After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded with.

## He poured water into a basin **and began to wash the disciples' feet**

In the ancient world there were two types of slaves that made up the servant world. One being a Jewish slave and the other a Gentile slave. Each served in differing customs of servitude that was more or less compatible with the quality of service rendered. **"Jewish Slaves Never Served in the Capacity of a Foot Washer"**

I Wonder, As Jesus Went Around the Table and Washed The Feet of these men –  
what was He able to see?

### Thomas

If you could only see where these feet are heading.  
- You'll go far from here, to beautiful people in North Africa.

### James

These feet won't get far in this world. In fact very soon they will carry you to your death  
for the gospel

### Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who  
proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...

### Judas

These feet have never been in agreement with your heart Judas. You have never  
really followed me – not really!

### Psalms 41:9

Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel  
against me.

## The Lord of The Towel

### 2.) *The Servant Example of Jesus*

*vv. 6-11*

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "**What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.**" 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part 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, "**He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.**" 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "**You are not all clean.**"

Some Times Great Examples  
Can Be So Easily Wasted

**a.) vv.6-7**

Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, **"What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."**

**Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"**

Peter only seems to open his mouth long enough to change feet

Apparently there was no previous protest from the other disciples

**"What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this"**

Could this statement of Jesus' be futuristic to peter's hour of Daniel?

**"But you will know after this."**

Peter – Practical Christian Service is Where it's at

Peter, heaven is going to be a place where my servants inherit their rewards for having been a blessed me

**b.) vv.8-9**

8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, **"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."** 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

**"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."**

**I Must Do The Washing – or else you're not of us!**

Salvation Assured in Christ

Salvation Powered by Christ

**1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to (kath'ar'id'zo) cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**grk 2511 katharizo** (kath-ar-id'-zo); To wash completely, to purge and purify from all impurities

## **To Make a Person - Blemish Free**

By These Actions

Jesus Acts Out Before His Followers His Life Story

**"The Servant God"**

**Philippians 2:5-7**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

**Matthew 20:28**

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"

## **Does Getting Blessed Make You Uncomfortable?**



# YET PERSONALLY

I Love to Bless People. If I desire to "serve someone," that means that I am wanting to give them something that cannot come from anyone else. I want to bless them with the powers or opportunities that I have available at my command...

- I wish I had more to give!!!

So Simon Peter saith unto Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

## **Wrong Again Peter**

He swings from uninformed pride to ignorant humility

Peter, - you are "The Weakest Link"

**c.) vv.10-11**

Jesus said to him, "**He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.**" 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "**You are not all clean.**"

## **The Lord of The Towel**

**3.) The Servant Call of Jesus**

**vv. 12-17**

12 So when He had washed their feet, taking His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "**Do you know what I have done to you?** 13 "**You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, 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 should do as I have done to you.** 16 "**Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.** 17 "**If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

a.)

Vv.12-14

**"Do you know what I have done to you?"**

## St. Luke Tells Us More

**Luke 22:24**

Now at this time, there was also a dispute among them,  
as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

**They Were Ready to Fight for the Throne,**

But none of them were ready to pick up the towel

But none of them were ready to pick up the towel

But none of them were ready to pick up the towel

But none of them were ready to pick up the towel

## **A Faith Lesson - 101**

13 "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, 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.

b.)

v.15

**"For I have given you an example, that you should do  
as I have done to you.**

c.)

vv.16-17

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he  
who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, blessed  
are you if you do them.**

What do we learn from this portion of scripture?  
There is a spiritual truth that is paramount to the event  
Having come to faith in Christ, we only need to maintain fellowship with Him by  
having our feet washed on a regular basis.

It is incumbent upon every Christian to find out what their  
“foot washing” skills are  
Doing the “foot washing” thing is doing exactly what Jesus would do

#### HOW DO I DO IT JACK?

You've got to position yourself to be near others  
You've got to allow yourself to be available for others  
You got to be willing to be a real Christian for yourself

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

#### **True Christian Service Means**

Getting Your Hands Dirty If it Means Restoring a Brother

#### **True Christian Service Means**

Getting Your Heart Broken Because People Refuse to Listen

#### **True Christian Service Means**

Forgiving Those Who Have Sinned Against You and  
Expecting Nothing in Return

**The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

**The Alpha and the Omega**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

**The First and the Last**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

# **The Beginning and the End**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

**The One Who was, Who is, Who is to Come**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

**The Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.**

*Washed the Feet of Others!*

No Wonder Why He is Called

**Lord of The Towel**

Your feet will get soiled in this world - but you're clean always in your position - I'll  
take care of your daily needs of being cleansed

We can proclaim our Christian achievements, but if you're not a foot washer you're  
not much of a help to me

Where have these feet been? = indifferent to the love of God

It was an assigned task of a slave - foot washer = I'll keep on doing this