

## Special Message: The Upper Room

November 6, 2022

### John 13:1-5

### Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

**As we** come to the Lord's Table this morning I want to try to put into proper perspective the deep, deep love of God for the souls of people. I want to have you come with me as we make our way to Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room.

But first, I want to have us think about the outcome of Jesus' public ministry before we go to the Upper Room.

- I. (John 5-12) The Rejection of Jesus by the people of Jerusalem
  - A. Jesus Public Ministry has come to a close
    1. In John 5 through John 12 there has been growing opposition to Jesus
      - a) His Person
        - (1) John 6:35-36; 7:1, 7; 8:48-49; 10:33-39
      - b) His Works
        - (1) John 5:16; 9:33-34; 12:37
      - c) His Words
        - (1) John 5:39b-40, 47; 6:60-66; 7:12; 8:37
    2. The people of Israel rejected Jesus through **unbelief**
      - a) This rejection fulfilled the word of Isaiah the prophet (12:38a)
        - (1) John 12:38b-40
        - (a) Isaiah 53:1; 6:10
- II. (John 13:1-5) The Upper Room
  - A. (13:1) We are literally just hours before Jesus' arrest, trial, torture and death
    1. The Passover Feast was at hand
      - a) The Feast celebrating the salvation of Israel
        - (1) Sacrificial lamb offered.
          - (a) See Exodus 12:12-13, 21-23
        - (2) The blood of the lamb provides salvation from the wrath of God.
      - b) I want you to think about that first Passover in Egypt. The Death Angel did not pass over the Israelites because they were better than the Egyptians. It didn't depend on a righteousness of the ones offering the blood of the sacrifice, but on the grace and mercy of God directed toward those people who, by faith, offered the acceptable sacrifice.
    2. The Hour had come
      - a) Jesus had come for this very hour which was fast approaching.
        - (see John 12:27; 17:1))

- (1) The agony of the cross lay before Him
      - (a) Christ is the Lamb of God
        - (i) John 1:29: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (cf. 1:36)
  - 3. "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."
    - a) He loved His disciples— those whom He had chosen; those who had followed Him and become His disciples.
      - (1) He cared for them
      - (2) Provided for them
      - (3) Protected them
      - (4) Taught them
    - b) But now, He shows them the depths of the kind of love with which He has loved them.
      - (1) Agape love of God. God is the originator of agape love.
        - (a) God is love (1 John 4:7-8)
        - (b) Christ the Son of God demonstrates this love:
          - (i) Self-abasing
          - (ii) Self-giving
          - (iii) Self-sacrificing
          - (iv) The lay-down-His-life kind of love for them and for all who would believe on Him.
- B. (13:2) The Chilling reality of the moment
  - 1. In this tender, intimate setting there was a traitor in the circle of friends
    - a) Judas Iscariot
      - (1) The meal, presumably the Passover meal, had been served.
        - (a) Probably the bread and cup of the "Lord's Supper" had been received by the disciples
        - (b) Even Judas partook of the supper. (Matthew 26:25)
      - (2) But somewhere prior to this evening the devil had prompted Judas to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:25)
        - (a) He sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver
        - (b) He waited an opportune time
- C. (13:3-4) Jesus demonstrated His love for them
  - 1. (13:3) How could He love them all, **even the traitor** in their midst?
    - a) He knew the Father
    - b) He knew His origin
    - c) He knew His destination
  - 2. (13:4) He got up, taking the initiative to show His love, He put on a servant's garment.
    - a) He took off His outer clothing and wrapped a towel around His waist
      - (1) He took on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7)
      - (2) He humbled Himself, doing the work of a slave

- (a) The work that **no self-respecting Jewish person would ever do.**
    - (i) Work assigned to gentile slaves
- 3. We see the **work of the Savior** up close and personal
  - a) He “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45)
    - (1) His work was not to serve...
      - (a) The Spiritually elite, or
      - (b) The “Good people” of the world
    - (2) His work as a Servant-Savior was to serve
      - (a) Bad people
      - (b) Lost people
      - (c) Hopeless people
  - b) At the cross Jesus went **down, down** beneath the wicked, the irreligious, god-hating people of the nations by offering Himself as the Lamb of sacrifice.
    - (1) Jesus Christ came into the world to serve sinners!**
      - (a) Philippians 2:8: “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death—even the death on the cross!”
    - (2) Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners!**
      - (a) 1 Timothy 1;15: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners— of whom I am the worst.”
- D. (13:5) Jesus washes the feet of **all** His disciples
  - 1. It may have been easy to wash John’s feet. Wasn’t he the disciple Jesus loved?
    - a) But wasn’t it John and his brother James that Jesus rebuked, calling them “sons of thunder”? (see Luke 9:53-56)
  - 2. Matthew
    - a) Matthew had spent a career fleecing the Jewish people as a tax collector. He was despised by the people and disciples.
  - 3. What about the others?
    - a) Simon the zealot: fierce fiery spirit
    - b) Phillip: not convinced that Jesus was God (John 14:8-9)
    - c) Thomas the doubter
    - d) Peter the denier
    - e) Judas the betrayer
      - (1) He sold Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver
      - (2) He stole from the ministry
  - 4. Not one of those men was without sin.
    - a) Not one sinner was left out!

III. The Lord's Table. As we come to the Lord's table today the Lord would have each of you know these important, saving points:

**A. Jesus came to serve sinners by becoming sin for you so that through faith in His self-giving death on the cross you might become the righteousness of God!**

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that through Him we might become the righteousness of God."
2. 1 Peter 2:22,24: "He committed no sin, and no deceit was in His mouth....He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed."
3. 1 John 3:5: "But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin."

**B. I want you to know today**

1. That Jesus doesn't see you and me as others do!
  - a) He doesn't see a liar
  - b) He doesn't see an adulterer
  - c) He doesn't see a worthless addict
  - d) He doesn't see a convicted felon
  - e) He doesn't see an abuser
  - f) He doesn't see your apathy
  - g) He doesn't see your unbelief
2. What does He see?
  - a) **He sees souls in need of salvation!**

**C. Invitation**

1. You must not bear your sin any longer
  - a) By faith, cast all you sin upon Him who came to save you.
    - (1) Your unbelief
    - (2) Your half heartedness
    - (3) Your addiction; your criminal record; your resentment, your hatred, your godlessness; your love of self; your love of emptiness. **Cast it all! Heap it all upon Him!**
2. You must come to Him right now, casting all your sin upon Christ as your sin offering!
3. If you want your sins to be washed away, fall before Him now and let Him wash you, to cleanse you. Let Him wash the shame of your guilt away!
4. If you would be free, free from your burden of sin call upon the Name of the Lord and be saved.
5. **Jesus came to save sinners!**

Pray with me. In preparation for the Lord's Supper, confess your sins to the Lord right now. He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 Jn.1:9)

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord".

