Serving Like Jesus Did

Rick Liggin · John 13:1–17

INTRODUCTION

- I just want to remind you of some things that I think are very important from this passage of Scripture.
- It's not his birth that was important, although it was necessary. It is his death that is the critical point of history.

1 Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

John 13:8

- He stoops down and proceeds to do something that was done only by the lowliest of servants. He washes his disciples' feet.
- Peter felt that the washing of Jesus' feet would be beneath Jesus.
- For Peter to have a part in what Jesus was doing, he had to let Jesus wash his feet.

2 Why Are We Being Told This?

John 13:1–3; John 1:10–12; Matthew 28:18

- The sentence gives us some information that is critical to understanding what Jesus is actually doing here in this text.
- It also tells us that he loved his own who were in the world, and that he loved them to the end, verse 1.
- The sentence also tells us that Jesus knew exactly what kind of authority he had.
- One with this kind of authority, with this kind of divine origin, and with this kind of divine destiny, such a one should not wash feet.

3 Jesus Washed Judas' Feet Also

- John goes out of his way, I think, to tell us that Judas was there with him, with them, when Jesus stooped over to wash the disciples' feet.
- He washed the feet of his ultimate enemy, the one who would betray him.
- Jesus washed not just the feet of his inferior friends, but also the feet of his enemies.

4 Do You Know What I Have Done to You?

John 13:12; Romans 5:6–10

- After he finishes this humiliating task, he orders his disciples to follow his example.
- Jesus was trying to get them to see something bigger than just this physical act of washing their feet.
- He shows us that we must wash the feet of our inferiors, of even our enemies.

- Our God is always a God who is willing to stoop and serve. Will God wash feet? Yes, he will.
- But God demonstrates his own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

5 Love One Another Even as I Have Loved You

John 13:34–35; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:43–48

- A new commandment I give to you that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- The new part of it is that we love one another, not just as we love ourselves, love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but we love one another even as I have loved you.
- He loved not simply his equal. He stooped to love his inferior. Even his enemy. And we must do the same.
- Loving one another from a biblical perspective is not ever simply a matter of emotion. It is actually acting in the best interest of the other individual.

6 Christianity Out of Our Comfort Zone

- That kind of Christianity that allows us to stay within our comfort zone is not the kind of Christianity that Jesus offers us.
- Following His example means that we must actually stoop to serve and to love those who are beneath us, those who are not worthy of our love.
- We act in their best interest, not in our best interest.
- It is the height of arrogance for us to think that we would want Him to serve us.
- If we are unwilling to do that, then just like Peter, we can have no part with him.

THE CHALLENGE

Folks, that is what a disciple is. Not just a fellow who comes to church. He's someone who wants to be like Jesus. Do you look like him? Are you willing to love and serve like him? I want you to think about that.

MY NOTES