

SERMON TEXT: John 13:1-5; 12-17 (See also Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:7-38)

Vs. 1 - It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

Vs. 2 - The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

Vs. 3 - Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

Vs. 4 - so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

Vs. 5 - After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Vs. 12 - When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. **"Do you understand what I have done for you?"** he asked them.

Vs. 13 - You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Vs. 14 - **Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.**

Vs. 15 - **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.**

Vs. 16 - I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Vs. 17 - Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

GREETING: Jesus says: Come to ME, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28-29 -NIV)

As we continue with the Sermon Series for this Lent Season entitled "*The Hands of the Passion*", we are making our way to the cross as we see Jesus Who spreads out *His hands* upon the Cross of Calvary (John 19:17-18) for the sin of the World (Heb. 10:10, I Tim. 2:5-6, I John 2:1-2), and then shows those same nail pierced hands three days later to His disciples behind the locked doors as Jesus declared to them "*Peace be With You.*" (John 20:19-27)

This evening we see the hands of Jesus as He shows us His Hands of Humility.

There was a certain husband and wife who went out to a restaurant to celebrate their wedding anniversary? After they were seated 30 minutes had passed and no one came to take their order, and they never even received a glass of water. So the husband went in search of someone to ask how much longer it would be before they could order their meal. When the husband did find someone to ask for help, the waiter interrupted and said, "Sorry sir, but I need to go and help someone else at a different table."

And so the husband and wife left that particular establishment and went elsewhere.

God has created people to depend upon one another. We do not all have the same gifts and abilities. Some people are farmers, some are doctors and nurses, some are construction

workers, some are cooks, some are mechanics, some are teachers, and the list goes on. When we find someone who does a good job, we refer others to that individual and we happily pay the bill and may even offer a tip.

This evening we see Jesus serving His disciples by doing the menial job of washing the dirt off of their feet. Jesus demonstrates to His disciples and us what humble service is.

From the Gospel of Luke, we learn that the disciples had been debating / disputing amongst themselves, “**Who was the greatest**” (Luke 22:24-30).

During that dispute, Jesus said to them, “**For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? BUT I AM among you as One Who serves.**” (Luke 22:27)

It is during that Thursday evening in the upper room (Lk 22:12; Mk. 14:15) where during that dispute, that Jesus

Vs. 4 - got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

Vs. 5 - After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

During the course that Jesus was washing the feet of His disciples that as Jesus came to Peter and Peter asked: “Lord are you going to wash my feet?”

Imagine having spent three years with Jesus, and observing all the miracles that Jesus did as well as hearing the Sermons that Jesus preached, Jesus being One of authority, and now Jesus is washing the feet of His disciples?

Were the disciples embarrassed by the fact that they were arguing over who was the greatest?

Jesus here teaches His disciples by His actions.

After Jesus finished washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus asked them:

Vs. 12 - “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.

Vs. 13 - You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Just in case the disciples did not understand what Jesus did; He tells them

Vs. 15 - I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Vs. 16 - I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Vs. 17 - Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

(Serve God and serve one another – Rom. 1:9; Gal. 5:13; Col 3:24;)

As we hear these words of our Lord Jesus, it is important that we not fall into the trap of thinking that Jesus has come into this world ONLY to be an example. There are many who fall into that trap of Satan.

After Jesus finished washing the feet of His disciples in an act of service, Jesus again serves up the Lord's Supper.

It is in the Lord's Supper that Jesus offers His True Body and Blood in / with and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sins to all believers. (Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:19-20)

The bread and the wine do NOT represent Christ's Body and Blood.

The bread and the wine do NOT change into Christ's Body and Blood.

Jesus simply says, **This IS**. The Theological term that we use is *Real Presence*.

This washing of the feet of His disciples and the institution of the Lord's Supper was and is all in prelude to the central purpose for which Jesus came into the World.

That is to serve His disciples, to serve us, and to serve all mankind in humility by offering Himself upon the altar of the cross of Calvary.

We may sometimes struggle with the full extent of what Jesus has done for us and our salvation, but it will all be made clear when we are together with Him in heaven forever. **AMEN**

THEME: Hands of Humility