



Lesson 59 – A Servant of Servants

Based on Luke 22:7-18, 24; John 13:1-17.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the _____, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he _____ them unto the end.

In the upper chamber of a dwelling at Jerusalem, Christ was sitting at table with His disciples. They had gathered to celebrate the Passover. The Saviour desired to keep this feast alone with the twelve. He knew that His hour was come; He Himself was the true paschal lamb, and on the day the Passover was eaten He was to be sacrificed. He was about to drink the cup of wrath; He must soon receive the final baptism of suffering. But a few quiet hours yet remained to Him, and these were to be spent for the benefit of His beloved disciples.

2) What defined Jesus' ministry?

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many.

3) What did Jesus say to the Disciples?

Luke 22:15-18 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I _____: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave _____, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of _____ shall come.

He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. He knew that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal. He knew that by the most humiliating process to which criminals were subjected He would be put to death. He knew the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. He knew how great the sacrifice that He must make, and for how many it would be in vain.

He looked upon the twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who, after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself. His care for them was uppermost in His mind.

4) Jesus had so much to tell them but couldn't, why?

Luke 22:24 And there was also a _____ among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

This contention, carried on in the presence of Christ, grieved and wounded Him. The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom. They had placed their own estimate upon themselves and upon one another, and, instead of regarding their brethren as more worthy, they had placed themselves first.

5) Where was John at the table?

John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' _____ one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.



When the disciples entered the supper room, their hearts were full of resentful feelings. Judas pressed next to Christ on the left side; John was on the right. If there was a highest place, Judas was determined to have it, and that place was thought to be next to Christ.

6) There was another problem at the supper, what did Jesus do?

John 13:4-5 He _____ from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to _____ the disciples' feet, and to _____ them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

At a feast it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests, and on this occasion, preparation had been made for the service. The pitcher, the basin, and the towel were there, in readiness for the feet washing; but no servant was present, and it was the disciples' part to perform it. But each of the disciples, yielding to wounded pride, determined not to act the part of a servant.

Christ expressed His love for His disciples. Their selfish spirit filled Him with sorrow, but He entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead, He gave them an example they would never forget. His love for them was not easily disturbed or quenched. He knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He came from God, and went to God. He had a full consciousness of His divinity; but He had laid aside His royal crown and kingly robes and had taken the form of a servant.

7) What had Judas done earlier?

Luke 22:3-6 Then entered _____ into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might _____ him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him _____. And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

Jesus alone could read his secret. Yet He did not expose him. Jesus hungered for his soul. He felt for him such a burden as for Jerusalem when He wept over the doomed city. His heart was crying, How can I give thee up? The constraining power of that love was felt by Judas. When the Saviour's hands were bathing those soiled feet, and wiping them with the towel, the heart of Judas thrilled through and through with the impulse then and there to confess his sin. But he would not humble himself.

If Jesus could so humble Himself, he thought, He could not be Israel's king. All hope of worldly honor in a temporal kingdom was destroyed. Judas was satisfied that there was nothing to be gained by following Christ. After seeing Him degrade Himself, as he thought, he was confirmed in his purpose to disown Him and confess himself deceived. He was possessed by a demon, and he resolved to complete the work he had agreed to do in betraying his Lord.

8) What did Peter say when it was his turn?

John 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash _____ feet?

Christ's condescension broke his heart. He was filled with shame to think that one of the disciples was not performing this service.



9) What was Jesus' reply to him?

John 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know _____.

Peter could not bear to see his Lord, whom he believed to be the Son of God, acting the part of a servant. His whole soul rose up against this humiliation.

10) What was the interchange between Jesus and Peter?

John 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt _____ wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast _____ with me.

It is not humiliating to the Master to allow Him to work for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ.

11) How did the conversation progress?

John 13:9-10 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my _____ and my _____. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but _____.

Peter surrendered his pride and self-will. He could not endure the thought of separation from Christ; that would have been death to him.

This was of far more consequence than the washing of their dusty feet. With the spirit they then had, not one of them was prepared for communion with Christ. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake of the paschal supper, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute. Their hearts must be cleansed.

12) Where was the heart of Judas?

John 13:11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all _____.

13) What did he tell the Eleven?

John 13:13-16 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to _____ one _____ feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is _____ greater than he that sent him.

14) In what way can we see that God does not live for Himself?

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the _____ and on the _____, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

This ideal of ministry God has committed to His Son. Jesus was given to stand at the head of humanity, that by His example He might teach what it means to minister. His whole life was under a law of service. He served all, ministered to all. Thus, He lived the law of God, and by His example showed how we are to obey it.



15) Who are the greatest people among us?

Matthew 20:26-27 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your _____:

16) What did He tell the Disciples about what He did for them?

John 13:14-15 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an _____, that ye should do as I have _____ to you.

This ordinance is Christ's appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore, it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed.

17) What does the Communion Service help us to remember?

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world.

18) What shall we do with our liberty?

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the _____, but by love serve one another.

In washing the feet of His disciples, Christ gave evidence that He would do any service, however humble, that would make them heirs with Him of the eternal wealth of heaven's treasure. His disciples, in performing the same rite, pledge themselves in like manner to serve their brethren. Whenever this ordinance is rightly celebrated, the children of God are brought into a holy relationship, to help and bless each other. They covenant that the life shall be given to unselfish ministry.

19) What comes with following Jesus' example?

John 13:17 If ye know these things, _____ are ye if ye do them.

Can you see that we need to look out for each other?

Would you like to be more caring and kinder?

When is the time to help others?