

Servolution 3
“Serving Insiders”

Text: John 13:1-17 ESV

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when **Jesus knew** that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² During supper, when the devil had 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 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and **taking a towel**, tied it around his waist.

⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, **“What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”** ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, **“If I do not wash you, you have no share 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, **“The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,**

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, **“Do you understand what I have done to you?**

¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, 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 also should do just as I have done to you.**

¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

V1: “**Jesus knew** that his hour had come.”

- Emphasizing the full consciousness of Christ. He was not stumbling into the dark or the unknown as he faced “his hour.”

V3: “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,”

- Jesus is fully conscious of his deity and his Messianic dignity when he performs this humble act.

What would you do, if you knew that you were facing an agonizing and painful event, such as Jesus? Would you be thinking to wash someone’s feet?

V4: he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe (outer garments), and takes up a towel.

V5: Then he poured water into a basin and began to **“wash the disciples’ feet”** and **“to wipe”** them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Washed the feet of the disciples – Practice of Foot Washing

- Foot washing is symbolic this whole act is symbolic
- When we take something, Jesus means as a heart attitude and turn it into a religious practice it becomes limiting
- When you take something, Jesus says in the prophetic you limit the power of what he is trying to teach you.
- It was a breach of hospitality if you did not provide a servant to wash guest feet

Jesus on the verge of being betrayed, arrested, mocked, beaten and crucified on a cross until he dies, and what does he do, he washes the feet of his disciples!

Jesus is moving around the room washing feet when he comes to Peter, Peter senses a shift in their natural roles and is like, “**YOU!?!**” wash my feet?

Peter was famous for being over zealous and quick to speak

Jesus had to threaten him and say, “**if I do not wash you, you have no share with me.**” Peter then responds, not only my feet but my hands and head too.

Do you understand?

Can you see what just happened?

Key verse:

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Jesus says I am your example! Yes, you should do what I do!

Will you...

Will you grab your towel and symbolically wash the feet of the church?

Will you take up your towel? Will you serve somebody?

Will YOU, take up your towel and stay up with a parent praying with them over a lost child?

Will YOU, take up your towel and prepare a meal for a sick person or a shut in?

Will YOU, take up your towel and serve some coffee?

Will YOU, take up your towel and rock some babies in the nursery?

What do real disciples do, they take up their towels, and they serve others.

TAKING UP THE TOWEL

1. Serve Him by following his lead – He used his physical body to be a servant, we serve to proclaim him, we proclaim him when we serve with joy.

2 Corinthians 4:7 “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.

2. Serve Him by serving his body: He leads by thinking of others before himself. So, we follow by putting others before ourselves. Don’t think yourself too highly to serve.

Matthew 20: 25-28 ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Love seeing people serve with no agenda – But just as Scripture is many times there is a promise attached.

Matt 7:12 “Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them—this is the Law and the Prophets.”

- a. Matt 7:12: says do unto others as you would have done to you
- b. It does not say, do unto others as they deserve to be done
- c. It does not say, do unto others as to get them to see things your way
- d. It does not say, do unto others as your mood would have it

I am sure Jesus was not in the mood to wash some old dirty feet. But he did!

3. Serve Him and bring glory to GOD.

The church today doesn’t need great Christians with great abilities and great wealth. What the church needs today is Christians with serving hearts... humble hearts that serve others. Then greatness will arise! And we will

We are living, breathing, walking, and talking representatives of the living God. We are living letters to the world around us. We are telling the truth about who God is, by the way, we live as well as by what we say. And, that glorifies God.