

148. Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17,34-35)

Prayer: Jesus, we thank You that You washed us in baptism and made us clean. Thank You for giving up Your life and serving us, so we can have true life. Help us use our life to serve You and serve other people. We pray in Your name. Amen.

John 13:1-5. This happened shortly before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew He would soon leave the world and go to God the Father. Jesus loved His disciples in the world. Now Jesus showed His complete love for the disciples. They were eating supper. The devil already tempted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. God the Father gave control of everything to Jesus. Jesus knew that, and Jesus knew He came from God and was going back to God. That is why Jesus stopped eating, took off His coat, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Jesus poured water into a bowl. He began washing the disciples' feet, and He dried their feet with the towel.

- Jesus and His disciples were eating. Jesus stopped eating and did what?

- Many reasons Jesus washed their feet!
 1. Jesus knew He would leave the _____ and go back to _____.
 2. Jesus wanted to show _____ for the disciples.
 3. Jesus knew God gave _____ of everything to Jesus.

- Jesus knew He had all power. How do we like to use power? How did Jesus use His power now with the disciples?

John 13:6-11. Jesus came to Peter to wash his feet. Peter said, "Lord, You will wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "Right now, you don't understand what I am doing. Later, you will understand." Peter said, "No. You will never wash my feet." Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you don't belong to Me." Peter said, "Lord, don't only wash my feet. Wash my hands and my head also!" Jesus said, "If a person takes a bath, he is clean. He only needs to wash his feet. You are clean, but not every one of you is clean." Jesus knew who would betray Him. That is why He said not every disciples was clean.

- Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet? Why do you think Peter was upset?
- What did Jesus answer? “If I don’t wash you...” How does Jesus wash us and make us clean? How does Jesus make us belong to Him?

John 13:12-17. Jesus finished washing the disciples’ feet. He put His coat back on and sat down again. Jesus asked, “Do you understand what I did? You name Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right. I am your Teacher and Lord. Because I washed your feet, you should also wash each other’s feet. I gave you an example for you to copy. I tell you the truth, a servant is never greater than his master. A messenger is never greater than the person who sent him. You know these things. If you do these things, you are blessed.”

- Was Jesus more important or less important than the disciples? If they did things the “right” way, should Jesus wash the disciples’ feet, or should the disciples wash Jesus’ feet?
- How is the foot-washing an example for the disciples and us? Does Jesus want us to really wash feet? What does Jesus want us to do?

John 13:34-35. Jesus said, “I give you a new command. Love each other. The same as I already loved you, you should love each other. If you love each other, people will see that and know you are My disciples.”

- What did Jesus say we should do? How can we best show that?
- Sometimes we think our relationship with someone only affects two people, me and the other person. Not true! Other people always see what we do. If we love each other, how does that affect other people?