

John 13:1-38

August 22, 2004

Overview

- **Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)**
- **Betrayed By Judas (18-30)**
- The Son of Man Glorified (31-33)
- **A New Commandment (34-35)**
- Peter's Denial Predicted (36-38)

Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)

Jesus Loves His Own (1-3)

- *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.*
- *The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.*
- *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;*

Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)

An Acted Parable: Washing The Disciples' Feet (4-6)

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" (v.6)

- It is only the humble who will receive grace-the proud will have no part of it.
- Grace is a threat to their independence and self-sufficiency.
- Peter would come to realize this for he later wrote, "*Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'*" (1Pe 5:5).
- Here Peter seems unwilling to receive the cleansing that Jesus has to offer.
- Any one of us who has ever tried to deal with sin in our own power by doing something to "get right" with God or "make it up" to God has committed the same folly.

Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)

An Acted Parable: Washing The Disciples' Feet (7-8)

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." (v.7)

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with [not in] me." (v.8)

- It often said that this passage is about humility and provides an example to us of humble servitude.
- Jesus tells Peter here that he did not realize then what He was doing, but that he would later understand.
- Now Peter was surely clever enough to see this as an example of humble service.
- Therefore, there must be a deeper meaning to be discovered.

"With me" speaks of communion, of fellowship with God.

"In me" where it is used, speaks of life, of union with God.

Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)

An Acted Parable: Washing The Disciples' Feet (9-10)

"Then, Lord...not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" (v.9)

"A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." (v.10)

- Two different words are used in the Greek to denote two different kinds of washing.
 - *Λουο* means to bathe the whole person. It is used in the beginning of verse 10 and is translated **had a bath**.
 - The **bath** speaks of regeneration or initial salvation (cf. Ti 3:5).
 - *Νιπτο* means to cleanse, especially the hands, feet or face. It is used at the end and is translated **wash**.
 - The **washing** speaks of the cleansing we receive when we become defiled by sin. A person who has been regenerated (had a bath) need not get saved all over again.

Cleansed By Jesus (1-17)

Washing One Another's Feet (11-14)

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" (v.12)

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. (v.14)

- The example is one of humble servanthood and may even include foot washing in particular (cf. 1Ti 5:10).
- In a broader spiritual sense one must think of foot washing in light of Galatians 6:1.
 - When a brother gets his feet dirty, we have an obligation to restore him to fellowship.
 - Feet speak of our walk
 - Water speaks of the Word (Jn 15:3; Eph 5:26)

If you are going to wash your neighbor's feet, you ought to be careful about the temperature of the water. [Ironsides]

Betrayed By Judas (18-30)

The Unbeliever With “Good Flesh”

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." (v.21)

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. (v.22)

- It is interesting that Judas, whom Jesus said was a devil (6:70) and not clean (13:11) was recognized as an unbeliever only by Jesus
- We might even suppose that Judas was well thought of since he was entrusted with the group's money (v.29) and, outwardly at least, showed concern for the poor (v.29; also 12:5-6)

Betrayed By Judas (18-30)

A Thought On Cleansing From Sin

- A Christian who sins may come to Christ to confess (ἡομολογεο, to speak the same, to “agree with God”) and receive forgiveness and cleansing (1Jn 1:9), as Peter did (Jn 21:15-19)
- A non-Christian who sins may be indifferent (1Ti 4:2) or may experience sorrow, as Judas did (Mt 27:3-5)

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2Co 7:10)

A New Commandment (34-35)

How Men Will Know We're His Disciples

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (v.34)

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (v.35)

- The Bible tells us how the world will know that we are His disciples, how we can know that we are His disciples, and how we can know that others are His disciples
- How the world will know that we are Christians
 - By our love for one another (Jn 13:35)
- How we know whether we are Christians
 - By walking as Jesus did (1Jn 2:5-6)
 - By loving with actions and with truth (1Jn 3:18-19)
 - By the Spirit He gave us (1Jn 3:24)
- How we know whether others are Christians
 - By their doing what is right (1Jn 3:10)
 - By their love for their brothers (1Jn 3:10; cf. 1Jn 5:2)

Summary

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Bibliography

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