THE HUMBLE SERVANT

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**DATE: 9/30/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 13:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

The last night of Jesus' earthly ministry was very eventful

He prayed His great High Priestly prayer, they observed the Passover meal together, He taught His Disciples some valuable truths, and He was betrayed into the hands of His enemies

Through all of this, Jesus knew, that in the morning, He will go to Calvary and die on the cross for the sin of mankind

Think about that!

However, before He begins the events of the evening,

Before they come to the table to eat their last meal together,

Jesus takes some time to teach these men a Lesson in Humility that still speaks today

In these verses, Jesus reveals His Heart and His Mission

He proves to these men that He did not come to be Served, but to Serve,

**Mark 10:45 – *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many”***

In showing Himself to be a Servant of Men …

Jesus left us a vivid Portrait of the kind of heart we are to have for others

In these verses, among other things, we will find out that God's will for our lives is that we learn to give ourselves in Service to others

As we look into these verses today, I challenge you to let the Lord speak to your heart

Let's take the next few minutes and consider this thought…

**“Jesus: The Humble Servant”**

And How it Applies to Us

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, Let’s look at …

**I. HIS “WORK” – vs. 1-5 …**

These verses tell us that Jesus knows He is nearing the end of His earthly ministry (His Work on Earth)

He knows that He is about to go to the cross and suffer for sin

He knows the end is near

Yet, through it all, His heart is still Concerned for His Disciples

In His Work we see … (3 things)

**A. His ‘Love’ – end of v. 1**

***“… having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end”***

The Bible says, that He Loved them ***“unto the end”***

That Doesn’t mean *it was over*

Instead it means that Jesus loved them Perfectly, Unconditionally and Eternally

His Love for them Never wavered, even in the hour of His own crisis

What a great encouragement this should be to us!

You see, Jesus Loves us with the same kind of Love with which He loved His Disciples

The Bible tells us in **Jeremiah 31:3** that it’s an Everlasting Love

***“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”***

Paul tells us that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus

**Romans 8:38,39 *– “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,” “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”***

Regardless of what happens in our life …

We can know we are Loved Perfectly, Unconditionally and Eternally with the Eternal Love of Almighty God!

**His ‘Love’**

Next, in His Work we see …

**B. His ‘Life’ (Work) – v. 3**

***“Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God, and went to God;”***

This verse speaks of the Life of Jesus

When He came into the world, He came as the One sent from God to Reveal the Father and to Paid the Penalty of Man’s Sin

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For God the Father hath made Jesus the Son to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

Up to this Point He has accomplished The Father’s will perfectly

And He knows that after the cross, He will return to His Father and once again share in the glory of Heaven

Jesus had one purpose when He came into the world

And that purpose was to die for sin

**Luke 19:10 – *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”***

**John 18:37 – *“Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? …***

***Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the Truth. Every one that is of the Truth heareth My voice”***

He accomplished His purpose on behalf of every man!

He did this because of His great Love for you & I

In fact, the Cross is the Absolute, Indisputable Proof of His Love

[**Romans 5:6-8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+5%3A6-8) **– *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die” “But God commendeth (set forth) His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***

We may discount everything else God has ever done for us and write it off as luck or whatever,

But we will never be able to shrug off the death of Jesus on the Cross for our sins!

The Cross stands as a monument to the Eternal Love of God for you and I

**His ‘Life’**

Then, in His Work we see …

**C. His ‘Labor’ – vs. 4,5**

***“He riseth 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 wash …***

***… the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded”***

In these verses, we see the Lord doing the Work of a Servant

In those days, it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of a visitor

To Not provide this kindness would have been considered uncivilized and inhospitable

Jesus Himself gets up from the table, removes His outer garment, pours Himself a basin of water and begins to wash the feet of the Disciples

I can only imagine the amazement that must have filled that room as the Lord washed their dirty feet one by one (We’ll look at Peter in a moment)

I want you to be aware, that He would also wash Judas’ feet!

As incredible as this scene is, Jesus was doing something here that was unknown to all but one of the Disciples

He was washing the feet of the very man who would, later that same evening, betray Him to His enemies

What a lesson for every one of us

But especially those who are without Jesus Christ

Please understand that His Love for us will never end!

You may reject every attempt of Jesus to call you unto Himself,

But be assured that no matter how many times you refuse His efforts, you will never be able to turn off His Love for your soul

In fact, He has already humbled Himself on your behalf, when He went to the Cross and died for you!

**HIS “WORK”**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. HIS “WORD” – vs. 6-11**

First, let’s look at His words …

**A. To ‘Simon’ – vs. 6-9 …**

**1.** Simon Peter's *Shock* – **v. 6**

***“Peter saith unto Him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?”***

When Jesus makes His way around to Simon Peter,

Peter is incredulous, disbelieving!

He simply cannot believe that the Lord would want to do this

**2.** Simon Peter’s *Stubbornness* **– v. 8 a**

***“Peter saith unto Him, Thou shalt never wash my feet”***

When Peter sees that Jesus is really going to do this,

He responds with a triple negative

He tells the Lord, in effect, *“you will never, no, never wash my feet!”*

That’s the equivalent of irreverence

After all, the first condition of discipleship is obedience

Peter is simply refusing to submit to the Lord and he does so through a display of false humility

However, Jesus reminds him of a great truth

***“If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me”***

Unless a man is willing to submit to the Lord’s Commandments …

He can have no fellowship with Jesus

**John 14:15,21 – *“If ye love Me, keep My commandments” “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him”***

Obedience is always the Proof of our Love

**3.** Simon Peter’s *Submission* **– v. 9**

***“Simon Peter saith unto Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head”***

When Peter hears the Lord’s rebuke, he steps back and says,

*“If washing my feet will bring me closer to you, then don't stop there, but wash all of me!”*

This is an attitude of surrender that God can bless!

He wants us in a place where we are looking for His Will before any other consideration

Think about it for a moment

What is it that motivates you?

Peter was motivated by the thought of being closer to the Lord … Does that move you?

If you Love the Lord it will!

If it doesn't … then that’s an indication that there is definite need for improvement in your walk with the Lord

Next, let’s look at His words …

**B. To the ‘Saints’ – vs. 10,11 …**

Jesus is telling Peter that when a man has washed his entire person, and he gets his feet soiled by walking through the streets, all he needs at that point is to wash his feet

The image here is crystal clear for the believer

When we received Jesus as our Saviour,

The Penalty for our Sin is Removed

**Revelation 1:5 - *“Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”***

We have been eternally cleansed from head to toe through His cleansing blood

However, as we walk through life, we tend to fall into sin and we need cleansing

Not for the entire person, since that was accomplished when we were saved and can never be repeated

But from our Daily Defilement

**I John 1:9 …**

Jesus is teaching us that we don’t need to get re-saved every time we sin, but we do need to come to Him for forgiveness and restoration of fellowship

You see, if we allow ourselves to go on in sin, we will keep widening the breach between us and the Lord

The secret to true spiritual joy is the practice of Keeping Short Accounts

You see, Jesus is still washing our feet today!

We need a heart like David's …

**Psalm 32:5 - *“I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah”***

Please note that while Jesus said that the Disciples were clean, He also knew the condition of Judas!

**vs. 10, 11 – *“but not all” “For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, Ye are not all clean”***

It’s impossible to hide someone’s true spiritual condition from an All-Knowing God

He knows what we really are and He knows when we are just religious

He knows when we are hypocritical, and He knows when we are insincere about of faith

He knows whether you are saved or not

You might fool others, but you will never pull the wool over Jesus' eyes!

**HIS “WORK”**

**HIS “WORD”**

Lastly, let’s look at …

**III. HIS “WISDOM” – vs. 12-17 …**

As we close, let’s look at the Great Wisdom of our Lord

First, let’s look at ...

**A. His ‘Example’ – vs. 12-15 …**

Jesus set the standard for each of us

In His Example, we can see Him showing His followers what is expected

His Disciples had been guilty of arguing about who would be first in the Kingdom of Heaven

**Luke 22:24 – *“And there was also a strife among them, …***

***… which of them should be accounted the greatest”***

They were all concerned over Who would be the greatest in Heaven,

But Jesus reminded them that true greatness is a paradox (a seeming contradictory)

Men never earn the respect of others by forced obedience,

But they earn the respect of others by first being a servant

**Mark 10:42-44 – *“But Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; …” “But so shall it Not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:” “And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all”***

Jesus says that the path to greatness is through humility

This is one of the great paradoxes of the faith!

There are several others …

-- The way to Life is through Death

-- The way to Get is to Give

-- The way to Greatness is by becoming a Servant to others

Let's face it, there aren’t many genuine servants around these days

Everyone, it seems, is looking to get all they can

However, this attitude is diametrically opposed to that of our Lord

He was willing to make Himself the servant of all, and as a result, God has exalted Him and has given Him a name that is above every name – **Phil. 2:5-11**

**His ‘Example’**

**B. His ‘Exhortation’ – v. 16 …**

The lesson here is simple

If Jesus was willing to be a Servant, then all of His followers ought to be willing to Serve as well

Notice that Jesus just didn't Serve the ones He preferred

It might have been easy to wash John's feet

After all, John was the ***“Beloved Disciple”***

Yet, John and his brother James were called the ***“Sons of Thunder”***

What about Simon Peter? He was the one who would deny Him

What about Thomas? He was the one who would doubt the word of the others and refuse to believe in the resurrection

What about Judas? He was the one who for 30 pieces of silver would sell the Lord out

Jesus didn't allow any of these considerations to cloud His Love or His Service!

He treated them all equally and, in doing so, taught us a Tough lesson

What’s that Lesson?

We all have people that we seem to connect with and we have no trouble serving these folks

However, the true servant soon learns that he must serve all and serve them equally

The true servant is not allowed to pick favorites, but must have the heart of Christ and be willing to serve his enemies just as readily as he serves his friends!

**Matthew 5:43-48 …**

Can we honestly say this morning that we serve all men alike?

-- We’re Not … if we hold Grudges

-- We’re Not … if we remember Slights

-- We’re Not … if we think ourselves better than others

**His ‘Exhortation’**

**C. His ‘Expectation’ – v. 17**

***“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”***

Jesus says that if we know and do these things, we will be ***"happy”***! (Happy means *Blessed*)

When we take the example of Jesus and put it into action, we can be assured of the Lord's blessing in our lives

In fact, there will come a time when there will be no greater joy than that of being able to serve someone else in the name of the Lord!

By the same token, Not to Serve when we know we should … serves the opposite purpose

For if you know to do good, and don’t, you sin

**James 4:17 – *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”***

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus left us a wonderful example to follow

His was a life lived in the Service of others

If you were to sum up your life this morning, could you honestly say that others come before you in your thinking and your serving?

Can you honestly say that you are following the Lord's example to the best of your ability?

Or, maybe like the Disciples, you would have to confess that you are often guilty of promoting yourself over others

Whatever the need this morning, there is hope and help in the Lord Jesus Christ

It may be that some here are just like Judas

You are in the church this morning surrounded by the all the trappings of Christianity,

Yet like Judas you have never truly been saved by Faith in the Lord Jesus

You have a name that you are one of His, but you know deep down in your heart that you do not really know Him

There is hope for you too!

Like Judas, Jesus loves you and will save you if you will come to Him

Will you respond as the Lord leads this morning?

**HIS “WORK”**

**HIS “WORD”**

**HIS “WISDOM”**

**JESUS: THE HUMBLE SERVANT**