

## Jesus as a Servant Jn. 13:1-17

### Introduction:

- I. When we know who we belong to in this world we can serve others, even those who are trying to destroy us (13:1-4; esp. 3).
  - A. Judas was already prepared to betray Jesus (13:2).
    1. Jesus did not take the selection of His disciples lightly.
    2. Remember, He prayed all night before selecting them (Lk. 6:12-16).
    3. Jesus knows that Judas is going to betray Him (13:11, 18-19, 21).
  - B. Jesus washed the feet of His twelve disciples.
    2. He could do this because He knew that He came from God.
      - a. John 8:42 - Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me."
      - b. John 16:28 - I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.
    3. Jesus also knew who He was going to.
      - a. John 7:33-34 - Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. {34} You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come."
      - b. John 13:33 - Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.
      - c. John 20:17 - Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"
  - C. We need to understand today that we belong to God.
    1. We are made in the image of God.
      - a. Gen. 1:26 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
      - b. Acts 17:29 - Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.
    2. We are one day going to go back to Him.
      - a. I Thes. 4:17 - Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
    3. If we can understand this, we will be able to serve even our worst enemy.

## II. Jesus teaches us what it truly means to be a servant (13:3-5).

- A. Jesus does a task that no one is willing to do.
  - 1. Jesus does the job of a servant.
  - 2. The term servant literally means “slave.”
  - 3. Note the duties of a servant in the first century concerning the washing of feet.
  - 4. Judas would be numbered among the twelve.
    - a. If Jesus could serve the one who would betray Him, we also should be willing to be a servant to those who hate us.
    - b. Mt. 5:43-48
  - 5. In fact, the very life of Jesus teaches us what it takes to be a servant.
    - a. Phil. 2:5-8 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, {6} who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, {7} but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. {8} And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
    - b. Jesus was a servant from the beginning.
    - c. We should try to be like Him in this regards.
  - 6. Jesus is not saying that we must get on our knees and wash the feet of others.
    - a. He gives us this as an example, that we should be servants to others (13:15).
    - b. The example was that of doing what a servant would do, not necessarily washing feet.
    - b. We need to constantly be looking out for the good of others.
    - c. Phil. 2:4 - Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- B. The best way for us to be a servant of others is to be a servant of God.
  - 1. In order to be a servant of God, we must be active in our service.
    - a. II Tim. 2:24-26 - And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, {25} in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, {26} and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
  - 2. Jesus reminds us that a servant is not greater than his master (13:16).
    - a. God is certainly greater than us.
    - b. If Jesus was not too proud to get on His knees and be a servant to others, we should be willing to do the same.

III. Jesus ends this thought by telling us that we are blessed if we do these things (13:17).

- A. Once we know what to do, it is important to actually do it.
  - 1. James 1:22-25
  - 2. James 2:14-18
  - 3. If we are going to be a servant, we must be active in doing so.
- B. Any time we do things for others, it makes us feel good.
  - 1. Whenever we visit someone who is sick, it makes them feel good.
  - 2. As an extra benefit to that visit, it makes the one who made the visit feel good as well.

Conclusion:

Today, are you a servant to others? More importantly, are you a servant of God?