

"I gave you an example."

*John 13:1-15*

*13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would 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, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.*

*5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

*10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."*

*12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know 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, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

/John chapters 13 and 14 give John's version of the last Passover meal that Jesus shared with His disciples.\

According to Mark and Luke, the meal was held in an upper room:

*Luke 22:11-12*

*11 "And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 12 "And he will show you a large, furnished upper room; prepare it there."*

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Now, in John's gospel, commonly all of chapters 13-17 are called the Upper Room discourse. However, look at how chapter 14 ends.

*John 14:30-31*

*"I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

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So it is likely at this time that Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn will traveling to the Mount of Olives.

/Unlike the synoptic Gospels, John does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper itself. Instead , he gives us an extended conversation between Jesus and His closest eleven disciples.\

## *John 13:1-4*

*13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would 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, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.*

/Notice what is in the heart of Jesus. It's love.\ He loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

So what does He do? He got up from supper, and laid aside His garments, and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

He's preparing to do something. What?

*5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

He cleaned their dirty feet. Now this was a task that the house servant performed for the guests of the master of the house.

/In other words, it was humble work, to serve others.\

His disciples were the guests of His Father.

/And so just as Jesus humbled Himself to become a man, so now He humbles Himself to become a servant.\

And this is only the beginning of His service to His disciples, and to all of us.

/The very next day, He is going to humble Himself by becoming obedient to His Father to the point of death, death on a cross. In so doing, He cleansed us from our sins – all of them - with His blood. \

*Heb 10:12-18*

*but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,*

*16 "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD:  
I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART,  
AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,"*

*He then says,*

*17 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS  
I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."*

*18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.*

*Or again, in chapter 9 verse 26 -*

*Heb 9:26*

*26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

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*John 12:5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*

/He washed their dirty feet. No disciple washed his own feet.\ Only God has the power and authority to forgive sins.

*John 13:6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"  
7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

Verse seven gives us a clue as to what Jesus is illustrating by washing their feet.  
/Peter does not understand what Jesus is doing now, but he will in the future.\

*John 13:10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."*

*12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know 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, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

/Jesus washed their feet as an example of what they should do.\  
Jesus humbled Himself in order to serve them .

/They are to humble themselves to serve one another.\

*Matt 23:10-12*



*"Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. 11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.*

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/And how are we to serve one another? Through love!\

*Gal 5:13-14*

*13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*

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/Because Jesus was a servant all the way to His death on the cross, our sins have been forgiven.\

/Now we should forgive one another's sins.\

*Eph 4:32*

*32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

In a little while, Jesus will teach them again about how they are to treat one another.

This is what He will say:

*John 13:34-35*

*34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

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It's love that motivates us to humble ourselves. It's love that motivates us to serve others. It's love that motivates us to forgive one another.

*John 15:9-13*

*9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

*12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

*13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

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/ Love is the thing that Peter understood later on, when he wrote his letters.\

*1 Peter 1:22-23*

*22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

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/Too often, people look to religion for the spectacular experience\; to see something spectacular, or, better still, do something spectacular.

The truth lies elsewhere. The truth is that the greatest thing of all is not a miracle, or speaking in tongues, or the great public display of our self-righteousness. Not the great intellect, or the power of prophecy, or even faith to move mountains.

/No, the greatest thing is simply to love another and be loved by others, and, best of all, to know that we are greatly loved by God our Father.\

*1 John 3:1*

*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.*

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