

Sermon series: Life to the Full; delivered by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor, on January 6, 2018

Bible text explored: John 13:1–20

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What timing context (*v. 1*) does John note for this supper of Jesus with his disciples?
What meaning—in addition to duration of time—could the Greek word for “to the end” carry?
2. How did Jesus’ understanding of the divine plan (*vv. 2-3*) set the stage for his dramatic action?
Was Jesus surprised by Judas’s betrayal? (See also *v. 11* and *John 6:70*.)
Who was behind Judas’s refusal to believe?
What eventually happens to light when it is refused? (See *John 12:35-36*.)
3. Why was this action of the disciples’ Lord and Teacher (*vv. 4-5*) seen as so abnormal?
4. Why (*vv. 6-10*) did Peter initially object to Jesus washing his feet?
How did Jesus reply underscore that spiritual cleansing by him is a condition of being a disciple? (See *1 John 1:8 & 10*.)
But what did Peter’s about-face overlook? (See *1 John 1:9*.)
5. What (*vv. 12-17*) did Jesus tell his disciples they should learn from his object lesson?
6. What did Jesus convey (*vv. 18-20*) about how his impending sacrificial death was integral to God’s plan?
How did he clearly equate himself with the God of the Old Testament Scriptures”? (See *Exod. 3:14*.)
7. Some questions to ask yourself:

Have I ever asked Jesus to once-and-for-all make me “completely clean”?

Have I followed through, allowing Jesus to serve me by asking him to wash my feet of accumulated muck, and by accepting the good gifts he is ready to bestow?

How have I responded when someone treats me like their servant?

Have I discovered the joy that comes with serving others?

What am I doing to bring others to Jesus for cleansing?