

# The Humility of Jesus!

## John 13

*Pastor Mark John Bennett*

### Summary:

April 06: **John 13.** Jesus washes His disciples' feet (13:1-17). Jesus predicts His betrayal (13:18-30). Jesus predicts Peter's denial (13:31-38).

April 13: **Palm Sunday, John 12.**

Jesus anointing (12:1-9).

Triumphal entry. (12:10-19).

Jesus predicts His death (12:20-36).

Unbelief of people (12: 37-50).

### **John 18.**

Jesus betrayal and arrest (18: 1-11).

Jesus at the High Priest's house (18:12-14).

Peter's first denial (18:15-18).

High Priest's questions (18:19-24).

Peter's second and third denial (18:25-27).

Jesus' trial before Pilate (18:28-40).

April 18: **Good Friday, John 19.** Crucifixion, Death, Burial.

April 20: **Easter Sunday, John 20.** The Resurrection.

April 27: **John 21.** Theme: True greatness is found in humble service, demonstrated by Jesus' act of washing his disciples' feet, and culminating in his new commandment to love one another.

### 1. Jesus Obeyed His Father by becoming a Servant. (Vv. 1-17)

*<sup>1</sup>Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end [he showed them the full extent of his love]. <sup>2</sup>It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup>So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup>and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.*

<sup>6</sup> *When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”*

<sup>7</sup> *Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”*

<sup>8</sup> *“No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”*

*Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”*

<sup>9</sup> *Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”*

<sup>10</sup> *Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.”* <sup>11</sup> *For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”*

<sup>12</sup> *After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing?”* <sup>13</sup> *You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am.* <sup>14</sup> *And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.* <sup>15</sup> *I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.* <sup>16</sup> *I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.* <sup>17</sup> *Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

**a) Jesus Chose this Path:** He knew his time had come; He willingly chose to obey His Father. This wasn't a casual act, but a deliberate and deeply meaningful one in the shadow of the cross (v. 1).

**b) Jesus’ Love was Deep:** Jesus’ motivation is clearly stated: *“having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”* This love is the foundation of his actions (v. 1).

**c) Jesus’ Divine Authority:** Jesus acts out of love (being in His Father). Verse 3 highlights Jesus' awareness of his divine authority (*“knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God”*). This makes his subsequent act even more striking.

**d) Jesus humble ACTION** (became a slave to those whom He served): This would have been shocking and uncomfortable for the disciples (v. 4-5). (Perhaps it accentuated the tension of the situation, because Luke notes that when the disciples entered the room, they were arguing about who among them would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Lk 22:24).)

**e) Jesus shifted the focus to Kingdom values** (allow me to do....) (v. 6-11) Jesus' firm but loving response to Peter emphasizes the necessity of this act for participation in him. It's not just about physical cleanliness, but a deeper spiritual reality. (v. 8-10) Jesus' words about being "entirely clean" except for their feet can be interpreted as a metaphor for initial salvation and the ongoing need for cleansing from the daily "dirt" of life.

**f) Jesus checked understanding and gave an example** (vv. 12-17) *“<sup>15</sup> I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”*

\* **Transition:** Jesus doesn't just perform this act; he explains its significance.

## 2. Jesus Entered this Season with Conviction and Clarity. (Vv. 18-30)

### Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

<sup>18</sup> *“I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, ‘The one who eats my food has turned against me.’”* <sup>19</sup> *I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I am the Messiah.* <sup>20</sup> *I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.”*

### Five things Jesus knew:

**a)** Jesus knew “His time had come.” (13:1) (v.21; cf. 19:28).

**b)** Jesus knew He had all-authority from the Father (v.3).

- c) Jesus knew who (Judas) had betrayed and who (Peter) would deny Him (vv.10-11). Jesus knew the outcome, of the events and the people.
- d) Jesus knew His true followers (v.18). Jesus knows the heart of a person, He sees the complete you. Jesus loved them (us) in spite of their (our) behavior.
- e) Jesus knew the outcome of the coming events was settled (v.19; cf. 18:4).

<sup>21</sup> *Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!"*

<sup>22</sup> *The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. <sup>23</sup> The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?" <sup>25</sup> So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it?"*

<sup>26</sup> *Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do." <sup>28</sup> None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. <sup>29</sup> Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. <sup>30</sup> So Judas left at once, going out into the night.*

\* **Transition:** This act of service leads directly to a new and foundational command.

### 3. Jesus Demonstrated True Love! (Vv. 31-38)

#### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

<sup>31</sup> *As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. <sup>32</sup> And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. <sup>33</sup> Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. <sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

<sup>36</sup> *Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?"*

*And Jesus replied, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later."*

<sup>37</sup> *"But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."*

<sup>38</sup> *Jesus answered, "Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter—before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.*

a) **Jesus Designates A New Commandment:** Jesus restates what He had said earlier in Matthew 22: <sup>137</sup> *Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* A NEW commandment that builds upon existing laws but elevates the standard. It's not just about loving your neighbor, but loving each other as *Jesus has loved them.* (v. 34)

b) **Jesus Delineates the Standard of Love:** Jesus' love is self-sacrificing, humble, and focused on the needs of others. It's the love demonstrated in the foot washing and ultimately on the cross.

c) **Jesus Defines the Mark of Discipleship:** Jesus declares that their love for one another will be the unmistakable sign to the world that they are his followers. This is how they will be known. (v. 35) **We are most likely Jesus when we love/help people we totally disagree with. When we love like Jesus, we are welcoming Him and welcoming the Father who sent Him!**

d) **Jesus Declares Power of Unity and Love:** When believers genuinely love and serve one another, it becomes a powerful testimony to the transforming power of Christ.

## Application and Conclusion

### a) Reflecting on Our Own Service:

Where are you called to wash feet in your life?

What does humble service look like in our families, churches, workplaces, and communities?

### b) Examining Our Love: Are you willing to put the needs of others before your own?

### c) The Impact on the World: How effectively is our love for one another demonstrating the reality of Jesus to those who don't know him?

### d) A Call to Action: Let us embrace the towel and the New Commandment. Let us strive to live out the humility and love that Jesus modeled, becoming a compelling witness to his grace.