

“Jesus Models A Pure Heart”

INTRODUCTION

1. John 13 – 17 are perhaps the most sacred, intense chapters in the Bible. They contain Jesus’ last words of instruction to His apostles – the final message of His earthly career.

2. John’s description of what happened in the Upper Room begins NOT with a word, but with a deed – the astonishing deed of Jesus’ washing His disciples’ feet

3. We need to understand something about the relation between the words and deeds of Jesus: His deeds dramatized His words, while His words interpreted His deeds.

- Each of the deeds of Jesus was an acted parable containing some hidden truth. Some were miraculous works, while others were non-miraculous.

4. The washing of the apostles’ feet was a non-miraculous deed, but it was still a sign – a deliberate parable in which Jesus was revealing His heart and teaching at least three truths.

A Parable of the Mission Jesus Undertook for Us

1. Before describing this incident, John introduces it carefully. (vv. 1 – 3).

- The *context* was the Passover which commemorated the first redemption by sacrifice from the judgment of God. (The *occasion*)
- John also gives us the *chief actors* in the drama, both seen and unseen.
- John emphasizes that Jesus KNEW .. His origin and destiny, (v.3), and that His hour had come (v.1)

2. He “rose from supper. . .” (v.4). (Compare Philippians 2:6 – 9).

3. There is no clearer or more compelling evidence for the Deity of Jesus than the extraordinary paradox between His lofty claims and His lowly conduct. Their Lord became their servant!

A Parable of the Salvation Jesus Offers to Us

1. The washing of the apostles’ feet was a picture of another kind of washing – the washing away of sin through the death that Jesus was about to die. It was a symbol of *salvation*.

2. At least two aspects of salvation are vividly illustrated here: its necessity, and its nature.

3. The necessity of salvation: until, and unless, Christ washes us and makes us clean, we can enjoy no fellowship with Him.

v. 8 – “If I do not wash you, you have no part in Me.” or
 (“ . . . , you are not in fellowship with Me.” (NEB).

4. The nature of salvation: It is a washing in two stages. (vv. 9 – 11)
 - A *bath* is one thing; a washing of the feet is another. All they needed now was a washing of the feet.
 - When we first come to Christ, we get “a bath.” It is a complete *cleansing* called “justification”, and a complete *change* called “regeneration.” It is unique and unrepeatable. . . . Because we still fall into sin, however, we need to keep coming to Christ for forgiveness, so that His blood may keep cleansing us from all sin. But we DON’T need another “bath.” (Cf. 1 John 1: 7 - 9)
5. Peter made *two mistakes*: he protested against being washed by Jesus at all. Then, when all he needed was a foot-washing, he asked for a bath.

A Parable of the Mutual Love Jesus Expects from Us (vv. 13 – 17)

1. John clearly saw in Jesus’ action a *picture, or parable, of His love*. But he also saw that **Jesus’** love was to be a pattern of our love for each other.
2. Jesus designates Himself as our “Teacher and Lord.” ... There is no use in our calling Jesus Christ our Teacher and Lord if we don’t TREAT Him as such.
 - This means that we need to take our views of both Christian doctrine and Christian behavior from Jesus Christ!
3. What fundamental principle lay behind Jesus’ foot-washing? And why does He command us to do like wise? Surely the foot-washing teaches us that true love, Christian love, contains at least two essential elements.
 - *Love involves service*. Love is service rather than sentiment. It’s no good claiming to love people if we aren’t prepared to serve them. (Cf. Luke 22: 24-27).
 - *Love involves sacrifice*.

Conclusion

If you want to live a life that you will be happy with when you’re 75, then dedicate yourself to having and growing a pure heart - a heart that is ‘all in’. This will free you to be fully used by the Lord as a vessel of honor - to glorify Him by being His humble, loving servant for the rest of your days.