

JOHN 13:1-17

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 12:1-19 - THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY...**
 - 6 days before the Passover – Jesus was invited to a dinner in His honor...
 - The feast was full because everyone wanted to see Lazarus...
 - The next day Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey...
 - The crowds met Him singing Hosanna – proclaiming Him as the Messiah...
- **JOHN 12:20-50 – THE FINAL PUBLIC TEACHING OF JESUS...**
 - Some Greeks came to see Jesus – excited to meet the ‘Messiah’ of Israel...
 - Jesus told them a seed had to die in order to bring forth new life..
 - Jesus knew His time had come – and it was through the cross He would defeat sin!
 - In spite of all the miracles Jesus had done most people still did not believe...
 - They could not see or hear because their hearts were hardened by sin...
 - Or they were afraid to confess Jesus for fear of the religious leaders!

SERVANT OF ALL... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST – THE LAST SUPPER... VS. 1-3**
 - The day of the Passover had arrived... vs. 1
 - We are familiar with the Passover Feast by a different name – ‘The Last Supper’...
 - Jesus and the disciples had gathered in the ‘upper room’...
 - Jesus knew the time had come for Him to return to the Father...
 - He never intended to stay – He knew from the beginning He would leave...
 - His plan had always been for these men to establish His church...
 - They would be the ones to share the Good News with the whole world...
 - But there were a many things He still needed to teach them / to prepare them...
 - Jesus knew His time was limited – and the disciples still had a lot to learn...
 - The Last Supper is recorded in all four Gospels – **Matthew 26 / Mark 14 / Luke 22...**
 - But where the other three Gospels only give you the record of the event...
 - John takes 5 chapters detailing the final teaching of Jesus to His disciples...
 - It is the longest recorded teaching of Jesus in the whole Bible...
 - Concluding with John 17 – the Great High Priestly Prayer...
 - The only recorded prayer in the Bible between Jesus and the Father in Heaven!
 - God has called us to go out and share the Good News – **Romans 10:13-15...**
 - And the reality is there is a LOT we need to learn to be prepared for that work...
 - The way we are prepared is by listening to Jesus – hearing His Word!
 - Most importantly Jesus wanted them to know He loved them – to the very end!
 - The most important lesson we will ever learn – is how much God loves us...
 - We do not share the Good News because God commands us to...
 - We go tell people about Jesus because of the Love of God!
 - **I John 4:7-8** – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... for God is love.”

- o When it was time for the feast – the devil had already tempted Judas... vs. 2-3
 - The other Gospels record Judas going to the chief priests before the Last Supper...
 - The priests paid him 30 pieces of silver – about P1,500 - **Matthew 26:15**
 - Then satan himself possessed Judas – **Luke 22:3** - inspiring him to betray Jesus...
 - But Jesus knew the Father had given Him all authority...
 - And He knew where He had come from – and He was certain of where He was going!
 - With the events that were about to unfold – the betrayal / trial / crucifixion...
 - It would be easy to make the mistake of thinking things were ‘out of control’...
 - In fact everything that was about to take place – was all according to Jesus’ plan...
 - **John 10:18**– “No one takes [my life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”
 - No matter how dark our circumstances might seem – God is always in control...
 - Men make their plans – they may have nothing but evil intentions...
 - They will say what they want – and do what they want...
 - But in the end – God is in control – and He uses all things for His purpose...
 - Meaning we get to rest and trust – since God is for us who can be against us!
- **2ND – WASHING FEET... VS. 4-11**
 - o Jesus stood up after supper – and put a towel around his waste... vs. 4-5
 - He filled a basin with water and began to go around washing the feet of the disciples...
 - It was customary in the days of Jesus for a servant to wash the feet of guests...
 - People wore sandals – and the dust of the arid Israeli climate covered their feet...
 - Foot washing was considered a job for the lowliest servant of the house...
 - o Peter argued with Jesus – ‘Are you going to wash my feet’... vs. 6-10
 - I imagine Peter hid his feet – to keep Jesus from washing them...
 - Peter did not understand why Jesus – God almighty – would wash his feet!
 - Jesus told him – you do not understand why I am doing this – but one day you will...
 - Imagine if Nonoy Aquino came to your house – began washing your underwear...
 - You might have the same reaction as Peter – and the same confusion...
 - God will often do things that we do not understand – at least not at that moment...
 - When I was in Bible College – I was asked to work at the campus radio station...
 - I knew nothing about radio / no interest in radio – but the Lord was leading me...
 - Because He knew one day I would be running a radio station in the Philippines!
 - We may not always understand why God does something in our lives...
 - But our responsibility is not to understand – it is to obey – and trust He has a plan!
 - Peter exclaimed – ‘You will never wash my feet!’
 - Jesus answered – if I do not wash your feet – you will not belong to Me...
 - Waiting there with the water Jesus gave Peter the choice – clean or unclean...
 - When I was a kid – I can remember hating taking a bath – the dirtier the happier!
 - But my Dad would hunt me down and MAKE ME take a bath...
 - He was not about to let his son walk around looking like a filthy mess!
 - God wants to clean up our lives – He wants us to be holy and pure...
 - But He will not ‘make us take a bath’ – we have to choose to let Him!
 - Peter exclaimed – ‘Then do not just wash my feet – wash me from head to toe!’

- Jesus answered – if you bath you only need to wash your feet...
- This is obviously not referring to hygiene - if you just wash you feet - you will stink...
- It is a spiritual picture - your feet are affected by where you go...
- If where you go and what you do is clean - the rest of you will also be clean!
- We as believers need to be careful where we go - and what we do...
- We are foolish if we think that our surroundings do not affect us...
- If you hang out with people who gamble - tell bad jokes - and get drunk...
- But you think to yourself - I will not be like them - I am a godly Christian - foolish...
- Choose VERY wisely who you spend time with - because you will become like them!
- I Corinthians 15:33 - "...bad company corrupts good character."
- But if we are attending Bible studies / spending time with Godly believers...
- We will find we are clean - staying away from sin - walking with the Lord!
- o Jesus told the disciples – ‘You are completely clean – but not all of you’... vs. 11
 - The disciples were already clean because they listened to Jesus Word...
 - John 15:3 - “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”
 - The way that God ‘cleans us up’ is by washing us in the water of the Word!
 - Because His Word convicts us of our sin – shows us right from wrong...
 - If you feel like you are covered with the filth of this world – take a Bible bath!
 - But Jesus knew there was one who had not listened – who was not clean – Judas...
 - When we are not in the Word – reading our Bibles / listening to Bible studies...
 - It makes it very easy for us to get pulled into the temptation and sin!
- 3RD – FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE... vs. 12-17
 - o When Jesus finished He asked – ‘Do you understand what I have done’... vs. 12
 - I like that Jesus asked if the lesson was clear – did they have any questions...
 - At that point the disciples had NO IDEA what Jesus was talking about...
 - But notice that no one said a word – not a one of them asked a question...
 - I love it when people have questions after a Bible Study...
 - Many times they things the Bible talks about are hard to understand...
 - And if people do not have questions – it is either because they are not listening...
 - Or because they have no idea what I was talking about – all the more reason to ask!
 - The mark of a true disciple of Jesus - is not the one who understands everything...
 - It is the one who asks because he does not understand - questions are GOOD!
 - Jesus washed their feet because of an argument they had after the supper...
 - Luke 22:24 – “Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.”
 - I am amazed that right up to the crucifixion - the disciples did not get it...
 - They were still looking for Jesus to set up His Kingdom here on earth...
 - They were still jockeying for position - looking for power and prestige...
 - It is important for us to remember - it takes time and patience to grow in Jesus...
 - Sometime we have to learn a lesson - more than one time - before we understand...
 - God is patient with us - we also should be patient as we teach and disciple others!
 - o Follow the example of Jesus... vs. 13-16
 - With the cross just hours away - Jesus took the time to show them...

- **Luke 22:27** - “For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”
- Who is greater - the person who serves food / or the one who is served their food...
 - If you walked into a house - who is the owner - the one serving or being served...
- The disciples called Jesus their teacher – their Lord – yet He washed their feet...
 - If He was willing to humble Himself and minister to them...
 - Then they should also be willing to humble themselves and minister to others...
 - They should follow Jesus example and ‘wash each others feet’...
 - There are some who take this command VERY literally – and wash feet...
 - Jesus point is not that we should go around cleaning feet...
 - The point is that we should be willing to serve each other in humility!
 - Too often we look for others to serve us – we want to have our ‘feet washed’...
 - We come to church – but rarely ever think who cleaned it up for us...
 - We leave to go home – without a thought of who washes the soup cups...
 - It is easy to be served – but we are called to serve others!
- **Philippians 2:5-7** – “Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave...”
- A servant is not greater than his master...
 - Neither is a messenger greater than the person who sent the message...
 - Jesus – God almighty - came to give men the message of salvation – the Good News...
 - But He did not come to be served – but He gave the message by serving...
 - **Mark 10:45** - “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
 - God has sent us out into the world to give sinners the Good News of Jesus...
 - But just as important as the message – is how the message is delivered!
 - We are called to serve others – so we can show them the Love of Jesus...
 - Jesus did not just wash the good disciples feet – He also washed Judas...
 - Especially when we serve those we do not like – people will take notice...
 - It opens the door to share love of Jesus – the Gospel of Grace!
- o It is not enough to know these things – you are blessed if you do them... vs.17
 - If I told you the combination to a safe full of money – but you did not open the safe...
 - Knowledge is not enough – we are blessed when we put knowledge to work!
 - Knowing what God expects us to do is the easy part...
 - The real question is are we doing it – are we actually being obedient to the command...
 - The blessings of God come as we step out to serve others – follow the example of Jesus!