

Unexpected Jesus

Lesson 2

John 13

March 29, 2020

Unexpected Servant

Introduction

Foot washing was a necessary practice in Biblical times. People walked around in sandals on dirty, dusty streets that often contained garbage and animal waste. Going home for dinner and reclining around a table with dirty, smelly feet really could make a meal unpleasant. Slaves were usually provided to wash the feet of guests before the meal. It was expected.

Jesus washed the disciples' feet to be an example for how we should love one another, even when we feel some don't deserve it. We need Jesus to wash our "dirty feet." The very reason Jesus came was so that we could be cleansed of our sins. And because of that, we should be the example Jesus was for us and serve others – not because they deserve it, but because we love Jesus.

Jesus came to serve in a world where honor was proof of merit. He deliberately associated with those of low status and defied the understanding of what the Messiah came to do.

Memory verse: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."—John 13:14-15

Pray and read John 13.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages

What does the passage say?

1. What did Jesus know? (John 13:3, 11)
2. What did Jesus do for His disciples? (John 13:4-5)
3. What was Simon Peter's response to Jesus coming to wash his feet? And what was Jesus' answer? (John 13:8-10)
4. Why did Jesus wash their feet? What lesson did Jesus want the disciples to learn? (John 13:14-17)
5. What did Jesus tell the disciples about those who accept them? (John 13:19-20)
6. How did Jesus identify the one who would betray Him? What happened when he took the bread? (John 13:26-27)
7. What is the new command that Jesus gave His disciples? (John 13:34)

8. Where was Jesus going? What was Peter's response?
(John 13:36-37)

What does the passage mean?

1. How does God feel about the people of this world? (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:16)

2. We often hear that actions speak louder than words. What do Jesus' actions in John 13:1-17 tell us?
(Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3-4; James 3:13-15; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

3. In John 13:8-10, Peter tells Jesus "you shall never wash my feet." But after Jesus responds, Peter wants Jesus to wash his whole body. What does Jesus response in verse 10 mean? (John 13:10; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 1 John 1:9; Titus 3:5)

4. How is Jesus an example of how we should serve one another? (Mark 10:43-45; Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Timothy 5:10)

5. Reread John 13:34-35. Jesus leaves his disciples with a new commandment. It's such an important commandment that it's repeated in John 15:12 and 17. In what ways is our love for others an indicator of our love for God? (John 13:35; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 4:8, 19-21)

Applying the passages

1. What's the difference between loving someone and liking someone? What does this imply? What keeps you from loving someone you don't like very much?

2. Do you serve others? In what ways do you show God's love through service? What keeps you from serving those around you? What motivates you to serve?
3. To whom do you need to show God's love? Write a prayer asking God to help you love them as God loves you.