

Jesus Our Sacrificial Servant

John 13:1-17

1. The Full Extent of God's Love Vs. 1-5

Jesus used the washing of his disciple's feet as a symbol to show how much he truly loved them: a symbol of Jesus cleansing them spiritually through his cleansing death on the cross for humanity's sins.

Jesus washing of his disciple's feet is a symbol that points to Jesus cleansing us from our sins. We deserve our punishment for our sin, but Jesus took our place, as he died on the cross for us so that we can live a new life with Him.

2. The Free Will to Accept Christ vs. 6-11

Cultural Context: Washing someone's feet would be viewed as demeaning and a task that was normally reserved for the lowliest of servants.

Although Peter and the disciples were shocked and struggled with Jesus wanting to wash their feet, Peter understood enough to submit to Jesus, as he wanted to be linked to Jesus. Whereas Judas Iscariot, even though Jesus displayed such love towards him, Judas chose to want nothing to do with Jesus and His saving grace.

Only a person who chooses to accept Jesus, the Lamb of God who has taken away a person's sin (John 1:29), has been washed clean and now has life with Jesus. No acceptance of Jesus means that he or she can have no part with Him.

3. The Fruitful Pattern of Service vs. 12-17

Jesus provided an example for his disciples to follow. They are to live out the pattern of serving others like Jesus; what their Teacher and Lord taught and modelled.

Jesus calls us to follow him. He humbled himself and sacrificially served us so that we can have new life with Him. This reality empowers us with such zeal as we cheerfully follow Christ by lovingly help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Questions:

- In what areas do you struggle with being humble? What makes being humble so difficult?
- Does the world perceive us as Christians as the ones who wash feet by loving and serving others? Why or why not?
- What would it mean in your life to practice foot washing in your daily relationships? Take care of one another? Let another take care of you? Show appreciation? Practice patience and forgiveness? Serve one with no strings attached? Do things that are not my job? Serving in a ministry at the church?
- Whose service do you need to accept the next time he or she offers?