

**JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO SERVES**

John 13

HUMILITY

- We live in a world where humility is becoming rare.
- In this “Looking Out for Number One” culture, humility is to be avoided.
- The individual is to be exalted and served.
- While humility is personally appreciated, it is rarely modeled in the corporate world or the entertainment world or in many parts of the modern world.

HUMILITY

- Humility has been defined as “self-forgetfulness.”
- Humility also means that we should be willing to ask for help or ask for someone’s blessing rather than to be proud and independent.
- Two comparisons:
 - Integrity is tested when no one is watching.
 - Humility is tested when no one is applauding.

HUMILITY

- Seek humility before honor:
- Proverbs 15:33 - “The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.”
- Proverbs 18:12 - “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.”

HUMILITY

- We are to seek humility before honor and honor before wisdom.
- How many times have we met someone who is so arrogant and so prideful that you can't tell him or her anything?
- Often we get offended if people don't give us the honor we believe we deserve.

HUMILITY

- You are in a spiritual danger zone if you think: “Hey, they shouldn’t be treating me this way.”
- 1 Peter 5:5 says we are to “clothe yourselves with humility.” If we do this, God will use us.
- He goes on in that same verse to say “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

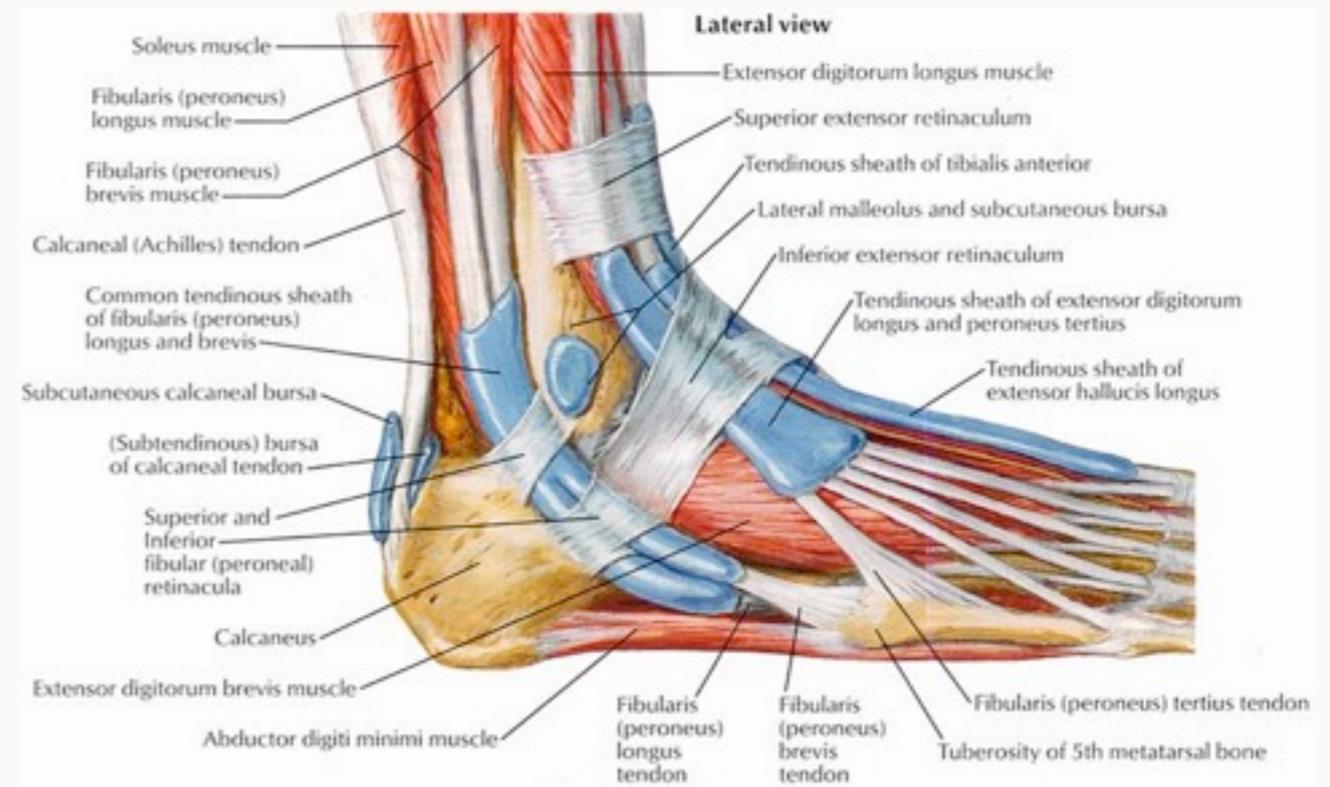
HUMILITY

- In our celebrity culture, we are told to see fame.
- But the Bible admonishes us to seek humility.
- Zephaniah 2:3 – “Seek righteousness, seek humility.”
- Paul in his letters also admonished us to walk with humility and gentleness (Ephesians 4:1-2).

**FOOT WASHING
IN THE
ANCIENT WORLD**

HUMAN FOOT

- The human foot supports our whole weight on 23 bones, 33 joints, and over 100 muscles.
- The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the earth in a lifetime.



FOOT WASHING

- Foot washing was a sign of courtesy.
- In the first century, people wore sandals and walked on dusty roads: short walk would result in dirty feet.
- It was common in the ancient world to provide a basin of water for visitors to wash their feet.
- Not to offer water was considered a breach of etiquette and an act of unkindness.

FOOT WASHING

- We see an example of this in Luke 7:36-50 when Jesus visits the home of Simon the Pharisee.
- A prostitute comes, kneels at the feet of Jesus, and weeps over his feet drying His feet with her hair.
- Simon was scandalized by her behavior. But she being a sinner didn't follow the common courtesy of providing water for His feet and oil for His head.

FOOT WASHING

- Foot washing was the work of slaves.
- In the first century, you normally washed your own feet after the host offered you a basin of water.
- If a man had servants, they might be directed to do the job for you. This was a mark of status.
- Never would a host wash the feet of his guests. He would never stoop so low to wash the feet of those who were beneath him.

FOOT WASHING

- Foot washing was dirty business.



FOOT WASHING

- Think about what it must have been like to wash someone's feet after a long journey on dusty roads.
- Remember that none of the disciples had pedicures.
- Without the medical attention we enjoy today, it is possible these disciples had cuts, corns, calluses, cracked heels, in-grown nails, perhaps even broken toes and fungus.

TRUST IN GOD'S CONTROL

MOVE FORWARD BY FAITH

JOHN 13:1-11

JOHN 13:1-11

- John 13 marks a turning point in John's gospel and the ministry of Jesus Christ.
- The Passover season has arrived, and He is about to be rejected and executed on a cross.
- This scene takes place literally hours before His death. And here we see Jesus showing His love to them over and over in various ways.

JOHN 13:1-11

- Jesus and the disciples had been hiding in Bethany and came there by traveling on dirty roads.
- Only days before, Jesus taught (Matthew 20) that, “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.”
- When they walked into the room, one of them could have demonstrated humility to the others.

JOHN 13:1-11

- Notice the contrast in the first two verses:
 - Verse 1 - the disciples were living in the light - Jesus loved them to the end (*telos*), He loved them to perfection.
 - Verse 2 - Judas was living in the darkness, Devil put in his heart to betray Jesus.
 - The light of Jesus shines even brighter.

JOHN 13:1-11

- (vs. 3) God the Father gave all things in the hands of Jesus.
- (vs. 4-5) Jesus goes from God's glory to washing the feet of sinful, fallen disciples.
- Foot washing exposes the heart of the disciples.
- (vs. 6-7) Peter reacts to having the Messiah wash his feet. It violated all that he had been taught to have Jesus wash his feet.

JOHN 13:1-11

- Peter in typical fashion swings from one extreme (shocked - 6) to another (wash everything - 9).
- Notice when this took place (verse 4). Normally foot washing was done before the meal.
- Why did Jesus do it after the meal started?
- Luke 22:24 - “a dispute arose among them as to which of them was to be considered the greatest.”

JOHN 13:1-11

- Foot washing foreshadowed the cross.
- The dirt on their feet symbolized the dirt they carried inside. Jesus used water to remove the outer stain, but it took His blood to remove the inner stain.
- “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”
- “Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.”

**LOOK TO JESUS
AS YOUR
EXAMPLE OF SERVICE**

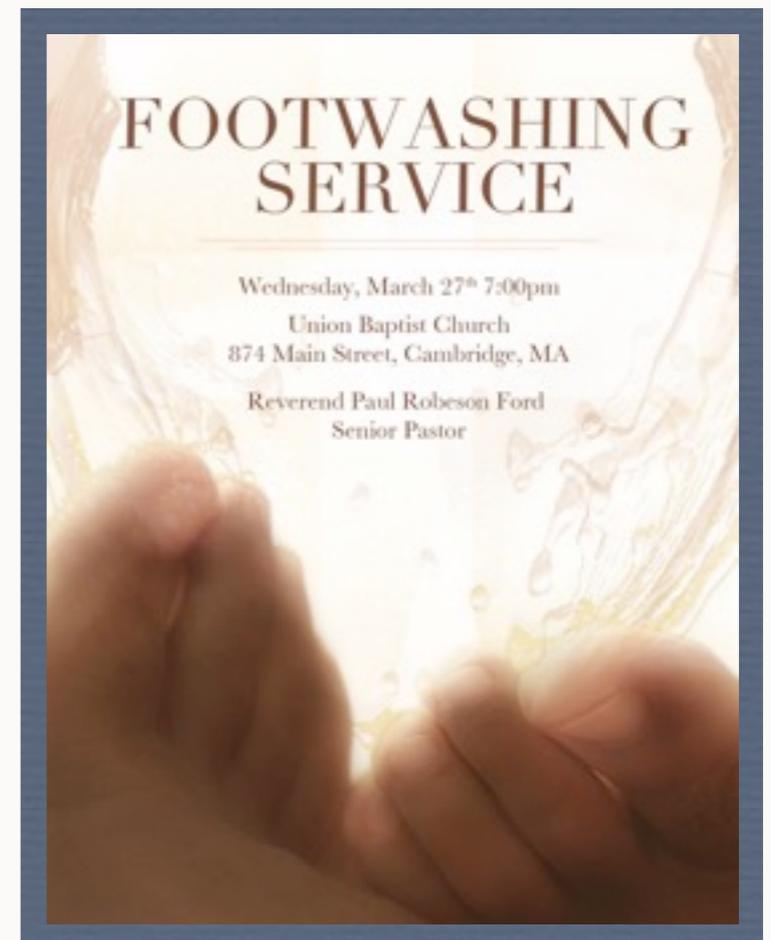
JOHN 13:12-20

JOHN 13:12-20

- Foot washing demonstrated how disciples must be servants.
- Jesus inserts a short theological lesson: they must do their ministry with humility.
- He argues from the greater to the lesser. If the Lord is willing to gird Himself with a towel and act like a slave, then they should be willing to do the same and serve others in their ministry

JOHN 13:12-20

- Was Jesus instituting an ordinance for the church?
- Some churches practice foot washing in a similar way we have baptism and communion.
- There is nothing wrong with this.
- But Jesus wasn't advocating a formal ritual within the church.



JOHN 13:12-20

- Foot washing illustrated the self-sacrificing love we must show the world.
- What Jesus did not only demonstrated humility and servanthood, it also laid the foundation for our service to others: wash one another's feet (vs. 14).
- Francis Schaeffer often observed that love is the ultimate mark of the Christian.

JOHN 13:12-20

- In verse 16, John uses the word *apostolos* which is translated here as “messenger.”
- Christians are to be messengers of Christ’s love to the watching world.
- One author put it this way: Christians are to be “people of the towel.”
- Love and humility should be the signs to the world that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

