

Read John 13:1-20. At this point in John's Gospel, the crowds fade into the background, and Jesus turns His full attention to those who are closest to Him. Knowing the cross is near, Jesus chooses to begin His final teaching with a living lesson in love and humility. The road ahead for these disciples will be difficult. They (and Christians of generations to come) will be left in a sin-scarred world to carry the light of the gospel forward. Of course, they will be strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit, yet it will be important that they share a commitment to humble love and service. This will ensure that they not only survive, but thrive.

Jesus takes the role of the lowest servant by washing the feet of His disciples. This job was dirty, often unnoticed, reserved for slaves, not teachers, and certainly – one would think – not for the Son of God. Yet Jesus deliberately stoops, showing that love in the kingdom of God is not expressed through status or power, but through service. In the Roman world, power and wealth were idolized, while humility was viewed as weakness. Jesus turns that value system upside down. Service will take time, effort, and intentional humility, but it will also be the glue that binds the people of God together. When Christians serve one another in love, unity is strengthened and the Church becomes a visible reflection of Christ's heart.

John's record of Peter's resistance reveals another important truth. Fellowship with Jesus begins with accepting His cleansing work. We must recognize our need, our inability to make ourselves clean, and humbly receive what only Christ can provide. At the same time, Jesus makes clear that nothing can be added to His work. "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet" (13:10). Salvation is not a cooperative effort; it is a gracious gift. But once we have been washed, we are called to live as those who belong to Him, shaped by His example.

Jesus leaves no ambiguity. To follow Him is to embrace a servant's heart. Our reward does not come from the world's applause or from exercising control over others. Jesus says, "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them" (13:17). Blessing is found in obedience, humility, and love lived out in community. The local church is strongest when it looks most like its Lord – stooping low, serving freely, and loving faithfully.

Prayerfully consider these questions: Where might Jesus be calling you to serve more humbly within His body? Are there places where pride or comfort have kept you from "washing the feet" of others? How might your relationships within the church be strengthened if humility guided each interaction?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him."

John 13:16

Weekly Affirmation:

**MAY OTHERS SEE JESUS
IN MY SERVICE TODAY!**

DECEMBER 2025 GROWTH GOALS

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| <input type="radio"/> Read the Gospel of John | <input type="radio"/> Memorize one of the weekly memory verses. |
| <input type="radio"/> Watch the Bible Project video on John
(available on the website). | <input type="radio"/> Pray for someone face to face, pray for them on a
phone call, or write out your prayer to give them in
a note or text. |