

TOWEL

John 13:1-17 • August 22, 2010 • Dirk Small, Pastor

images

August 1, 2010	“Cup and Bread”
August 8, 2010	“Water Dunking”
August 15, 2010	“Human Body”
August 22, 2010	“Towel”
August 29, 2010	“Runner”

John 13:1-17 (NLT)

1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.* 2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas,* son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. 6 When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." 8 "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." 9 Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet,* to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." 11 For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

John 13:1 (NLT)

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.*

John 13:3 (NLT)

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

Today's Main Point

The Bible consistently calls us to do something with our faith. Too often, we do not practice our faith in a way that the Bible instructs us. Today, we learn from John 13 what humble, submissive service to other is all about by submissively giving ourselves to God's plans. Allow God to have His way with us by willingly giving of our time, talent and treasures.

The Challenge

To practice John 13: 14, 17: "And since I, Your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

The Bible Teaches

1) What Jesus _____.

- a. He got up...
- b. He took off...
- c. He wrapped...
- d. He began...

What about Peter? It may seem he was acting humbly by saying in verse 8, "No...you will never ever wash my feet!" But, Peter was out of step with Jesus. Peter had a "better" way. It took Peter a while to learn that none of us have a better idea than Jesus.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps."

Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

"Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed."

2) What Jesus _____.

- a. From verse 1, we learn that Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father.

Question: If you knew that you would die a terrible death tomorrow, what would you be focused on?

- b. From verse 3, we learn that Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God.

Question: Are you secure enough in your identity to give yourself to lowly tasks?

John 13:11 (NLT)

For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

It's not great men who will not serve others—it is insecure men—the ones who think that washing feet and taking up a towel defines them as something less than they are.

When we realize who we are and the reason God has placed us on this earth, we'll live less for title and position and more to be a servant and towel wearer.

c. From verse 11, we learn that Jesus knew who was going to betray Him.

Question: Can you take up the towel and "wash the feet" of someone who doesn't like you, who treats you badly and maligns you?

3) What Jesus _____

a. What does it mean to be a towel wearer?

B. It is important to be doers, not just hearers.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website: