



THE LAST SUPPER

Introduction

The Last Supper with the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostles had no idea that their friend and teacher was going to be captured that night. They only saw that they were riding the tide of public opinion and were on top of the world. The disciples did not see their future in jeopardy. Though they spent three and a half years with the Lord, they did not know that he came to be crucified for the sins of the world.

The Last Supper begins in John 13. Here we see Jesus giving his final instructions to the disciples. It is also important to note the questions and comments that the disciples make asking during the last supper. We start off with Jesus preparing to wash the feet of the disciples, where Peter tells the Lord that he will never wash his feet.

Foot Washing

Jesus and the disciples have finished the passover meal and are relaxing. The after dinner discussion begins with Jesus preparing to wash his disciples feet.

John 13:1-9

1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Si-

mon's son, to betray him;

3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

From Peter's comments, we see that the disciples did not see the need to be washed by the Lord. They thought that since they were with the Lord that they were righteous already. Although the disciples have already been with the Lord three and a half years, they have not grown to the point that they needed to be cleansed from their sins by the Lord. They did not see the need for a savior. Some were still looking for a kingly messiah that would unite the Jews to overthrow the Romans. As you can see Peter and the others did not see their need to be cleansed by the Lord. They were

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righteous in their own eyes.

Proverbs 21:2

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

The Apostles were convinced that they were righteous since they were with the Lord. They did not see their own inequity. It has even been contemplated that Judas thought he was doing the right thing.

Peter was also refusing to receive the foot washing because Jesus was performing the duty of a servant. Peter thought that was beneath the Lord and that the Lord should not do a servants job. Peter did not realize the significance of what Jesus was doing.

The Lesson

John 13:10-17

10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Here we see the Lord giving an object lesson to the disciples by washing their feet. The Lord knew that human nature was to lord over subordinates. Jesus realized that he had to give a serious object lesson to his disciples who were going to build the church after he was gone. He knew that if he could do the job of a servant, then they would emulate and not act as lords over the flock.

Even with this valuable lesson, there are some who want to be lords and masters over God's flock. For those who are leaders, or who want to be leaders in the church, we need to learn to be a servant, humbling ourselves by serving the congregation. This is not a show type of humbling, but if one of your congregation needs help, it is your job to provide the needed help.

Foretelling of Judas' Betrayal

John 13:18-30

18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom

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he spake.

25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.

29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

Here we see the lord speaking plainly to his disciples telling the one who gets the sop is going to be the one who betrays the Lord. Though they see Jesus give the sop to Judas, they did not make the connection. Many may wonder how the disciples missed the obvious, but how many times in your life have you missed the point? We may see the point now, but there was a lot going on at the dinner like any gathering. What we read in the Bible is a focused recollection of the important items after the fact.

- Jesus tells the disciples that one is unclean
- Jesus tells the disciples that whoever receives the messengers that Jesus sends receives Jesus.
- Jesus responds to the disciple's query telling them that whoever receives the sop from the Lord is the one who will betray him.

→ Jesus then hands the sop to Judas

→ Jesus tells Judas to do it quickly

- Satan enters Judas and he leaves
- Everyone at the table missed the significance of the sop. Though they were told beforehand, it went right over their heads. Some thought that Judas was being sent out to buy something.

I have heard many claim that if they were there, they would have gotten the message. I even heard one preacher claim that he would never have denied the Lord like Peter. Little did he know that just by making that statement he was denying the Lord. If you even think that you would have acted better than the disciples, you need to look at where you stand with the Lord.

Each of us need to be reminded that we are no different than the apostles. Each of us can get so wrapped up in their own little world that we miss the big picture. Like the apostles missed the overall picture, we do the same thing many times.

Love One Another

John 13:31-35

31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my

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disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Jesus gives the disciples a commandment to love one another. He knew that he would be departing soon and he wanted them to stick together. Jesus was also telling us to take care of each other and love one another. Jesus wants the Christian community to grow in love and kindness. How much must it upset the Lord to see all of the infighting that goes on in some churches. He wants to see us grow in grace and mature in him.

Following the Lord

John 13:36-38

36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy

sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Like Peter, there are times we want to do something, but we do not know what we are doing, or where our actions will lead us. Peter wanted to follow the Lord but did not know what he was asking. He thought he was being denied something that he should be allowed access to. The Lord knew where he was going, but Peter would follow many years later.

Peter was like many of us who ask for something that we are not ready for. Peter was not ready to follow the Lord, and Jesus told him that before dawn Peter was going to deny him three times.

Following the Lord is a continual growth process where we become stronger in the Lord.

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