

Introduction: The Church of Jesus needs to always be examining itself to stay free from negative influences from the world around it which is subject to evil powers and principalities. *** One mistake that the American Church is still recovering from is the strong CEO model for the senior pastor. It began after World War II. At the time the big three auto companies, General Electric, and other mega corporations were dominating a booming economy. They all had strong CEOs, especially Ford Motor Co, Unfortunately, many churches forgot what Jesus did and taught as The King of all He created. He came to serve and give His Life as a ransom for all people who are sinners and under the control of the 'evil one' (Mark 10:44-45; Romans 3:22-26; 1 John 5:18-19). Sadly, being human, many pastors felt entitled to exercise strong control over the flock God entrusted to them, with disastrous results. Since the 1980s many people have left The Church of Jesus, not realizing what they are leaving is man's ignorance. They are implicitly blaming Jesus for sinful leaders. *** Thankfully, through careful research by many corporate consultants, God's gracious built-in truth about 'servant leadership' is now standard management training in most large corporations. *** The story we heard about Jesus and His disciples is one of the best (of many) biblical examples of the total humility of Jesus. Jesus demonstrated His humility to His disciples at His last Passover by doing one of the lowliest tasks of a household servant. Then He told His disciples they ought to imitate their Master-Teacher by humbly serving one-another. *** This will all be possible after His 'hour' of Death and Resurrection to be The One who saves people from sin to restore them to a joyful relationship with God. *** Let's look closer at our texts to learn more.)

I. Jesus knew His 'hour' had come and He loved His own to the end as He began to wash their feet. (John 13:1-9)

- A. At His last Passover, Jesus loved His own to the end, and He rose and wrapped a towel around Himself. (Verses 1-5)
 1. Before the Passover, Jesus had known that His 'hour' had come to leave the world, having loved His own in the world, to the end He loved them. (Verse 1)

Jesus' hour: Jesus' whole life was lived to die as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all, and to come back to life to give true life to all with the faith of Him.
 2. Supper continuing, the accuser now had put into the heart, that he may hand Him over, Judas (son) of Simon of Iscariot. (Verse 2)

Accuser: The accuser is always slandering people to God, especially those most dedicated to God.

Judas: Judas means 'praise'. His hometown means 'cities', perhaps indicating a worldly influence.
 3. Had known that all The Father gave to Him, and that from God He had come and to God He is going. (Verse 3)

Jesus' mission: The Father sent His Son to the world that it might be saved through Him (John 3:17). His mission in the world is almost past, but He is doing one more thing – the most important.
 4. He is being raised from the supper and He is laying aside His garments, and having taken a towel, He wrapped it around Himself. (Verse 4)

Laid aside: He is laying aside what He retained as a human, and He is taking on the essence of a servant (Philippians 2:7).
- B. As He began to wash the feet of His disciples, Peter strongly objected, then Jesus said Peter will have no part with Him if he refuses. (Verses 6-9)
 1. After He is pouring water into the basin and He began to wash the feet of the disciples, and to wipe with the towel which He had wrapped around. (Verse 5)

Servant: First, Jesus dressed as a humble servant to His disciples, now He is acting as a humble servant to them after His last Passover on earth (Matthew 26:27-29).

Jesus humbled Himself at His last Passover

2. Then He is coming to Simon Peter, who is saying to Him, 'Lord! Thou of me are washing the feet?' (Verse 6)

Peter's objection: Peter is objecting to Jesus with an exclamatory question. A new word for this ancient phenomenon is gaining popularity: 'Inter-o-bang'. It combines interrogation and the newspaper slang for an exclamation point.
3. Jesus answered, and He said to him, 'What I, even I am doing, not thou have known now, but thou will know after these'. (Verse 7)

Ignorance now: Jesus replies that Peter does not now know enough about His mission to understand; but, He assures Peter that after what He will do in the days ahead Peter will understand.
4. Peter is saying to Him, 'Never, not Thou may wash of me the feet – forever!'; Jesus answered to him, 'If not I may wash thee, not thou are having part with Me'. (Verse 8)

Peter strongest: Peter raises his objection to Jesus washing his feet as a servant to the highest level in human language!

Jesus' rebuke: Jesus responds with a strong rebuke to Peter. If Peter refuses what Jesus is doing, Peter will be excluded from future fellowship and discipleship with Jesus!
5. He is saying to Him, Simon Peter, 'Lord! Not the feet of me only, but also the hands and the head!' (Verse 9)

Strong '180': This is typical Peter, going from one extreme to the other in a heartbeat. Wash my feet and all of me! I want to be Yours.

II. Jesus said they were all clean but one, then He said IF He, their Master-Teacher, washed their feet, they ought to wash one another's feet and be blessed; David prays to be cleansed from sin to enjoy God's salvation.

(John 13:10-17; Psalm 51:7-12)

- A. Jesus said one who is washed is clean, but not one – because He knew His betrayer. (John 13:10-11)
 1. Jesus is saying to him, 'Who had been washed, not he is having need, if not (only) the feet to wash; but, he is being clean – whole; and, y'all clean y'all are being, but surely not all'. (Verse 10)

IF washed: Anyone fully washed only needs his dirty feet washed after walking on dusty roads.

But Jesus is speaking metaphorically about His disciples being cleansed from sin.

NOT all: However, Jesus knows one of His disciples will sin by handing Him over to be crucified.

2. Because He had known (from long ago) the one who is betraying Him, therefore He said, 'Not all clean, y'all are being'. (Verse 11)

Always knew: Jesus always knew as part of the eternal Plan of Salvation who would hand Him over.

John has already told us it is Judas.

- B. Jesus asked IF His disciples knew what He, their Master-Teacher, had done before saying they ought to imitate Him and wash one-another's feet and be blessed in the doing. (Verses 12-17)

1. Then, when He washed their feet, and He took His garments, and He sat again, He said to them, 'Y'all are knowing what I have done to y'all?' (Verse 12)

Question: This is a straightforward question to all twelve disciples. He had said Peter did not know. Now He asks if any knew.

2. 'Y'all, indeed y'all are calling Me The Master-Teacher and The Lord, and well y'all are saying, because I am being (all this)'. (Verse 13)

Master-Teacher: Master-Teacher is a fuller translation of Rabbi which is literally 'my great one'.

3. 'IF I, even I have washed of y'all the feet – The Lord and The Master-Teacher; also y'all, even y'all ought being of one-another to wash the feet'. (Verse 14)

Servant Lord: Jesus is the true, and first ever, 'servant-leader'. He is Lord of all He created and He has just humbly washed all their feet.

Jesus humbled Himself at His last Passover

Likewise: He emphatically tells His twelve disciples they must practice humble service to one-another as evidence they are salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16).

4. 'Because pattern I have given to y'all: that even as I, even I, have done to y'all, even y'all may be doing'. (Verse 15)

Pattern: The expected result of Jesus humbly serving His disciples is they would always be humbly serving. He puts no qualifications on the humble service. The reality is people can only obey these words of Jesus by grace through faith and that would come later. At this time, His example is enough.

Jesus humbled Himself at His last Passover

5. 'Truly, truly, I am saying to y'all: not he is being servant greater than his Lord, neither the apostle (sent one) greater than He having sent him'. (Verse 16)

Not greater: Jesus is strongly telling them they should be in AWE of Him for who He is. There is no one greater than Him, especially them.

Bottom line: 'If these things y'all have known, blessed y'all are being if y'all may be doing them'. (Verse 17)

Blessing: Jesus uses the same word here as He used in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).

Jesus humbled Himself at His last Passover

- C. David prays to God so He will cleanse him, renew him, and be with him so he will enjoy God's salvation. (Psalm 51:7-12)

1. Thou will purge (from sin) me in hyssop and I will be clean / Thou will wash me and more than snow I will be made white. (Verse 7)

Faith for cleansing: David declares his expectation that God will purge sin from him and wash him to be morally clean – right in the presence of God.

2. Thou will make me hear joy and gladness / They will rejoice, the bones Thou broke. (Verse 8)

Expectation of joy: After being made clean David believes he will experience joy – body and soul.

3. Thou must hide Thy face from my sins / and all my iniquities Thou must blot out // Heart clean Thou must create in me, God / and a spirit firmly established Thou must renew in the inner being of me. (Verses 9-10)

Remove sin: First, David prays for God to hide his sins and blot out his iniquities:

'Thou must do away with my shortcomings and wrong tendencies'.

Renew: Then, please (re-)create a clean heart and continually make my spirit new. He requests God to hide his sins which will happen when God will purge his sins by the work of His coming Savior-Son on The Cross.

Cleansing from sin has always come through Jesus – first in prophecy, now in fulfillment.

Jesus is The One who cleanses from sin

4. Not Thou will cause me to be cast away from Thy presence / and Spirit of Thy holiness not Thou will take from me // Thou must make to return to me the joy of Thy salvation / and (of) spirit of willingness Thou will sustain me. (Verses 11-12)

NOT withdraw: David has every confidence that God will not withdraw His presence from him.

Joy of salvation: Finally, David requests God will sustain his spirit to enjoy God's salvation, now fully realized for all who are IN Jesus.

Conclusion: At His last Passover, Jesus knew His 'hour' had come and He loved His disciples to the end, humbling Himself by laying aside His majesty to wash their feet as a lowly servant. He then said they are not greater than Him SO they ought to wash one-another's feet and be blessed in the doing. David requested God to cleanse him to have his joy in salvation restored.

Jesus humbled Himself at His last Passover