

True Greatness



Reading: John 13:1-17

- 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.
- 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.
- 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;
- 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.
- 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.
- 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
- 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
- 9 Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
- 10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet: his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."
- 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.
- 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.
- 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and rightly so, for that is what I am.
- 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
- 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
- 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
- 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

The Setting

- The pitcher and picture of water



The Setting

- The chosen room



The Context

- The grasp for greatness

Matthew 2: These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Mark 10

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?"

39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with,

40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

42 Jesus called them together and said, ..

The Context

- The strategic seating



The Context (v 1-3)

- The betrayal deal (Luke 22:1-6)
- Just before the Passover Feast
- Just before His ascension
- Just before the full display of His love
- During the disciples' contention for greatness

The Symbolism

1. Attitude of humility is fundamental



The Symbolism

1. Attitude of humility is fundamental
2. Action of God's initial cleansing



The Symbolism

1. Attitude of humility is fundamental
2. Action of God's initial bath
3. Need of ongoing cleansing



Was foot washing intended to be a church ordinance?

1. Cultural practice for cultural reasons
2. Lord took the practice to instruct
3. Nowhere else in NT taught, exhorted
4. Some Christians practice as ordinance as a part of Easter



The Nature of True Greatness

- 1. *I AM your Teacher*
- 2. *I AM your Lord*
- 3. *I AM your Cleanser*
- 4. *I AM your Example*
 - Together humble before God*
 - Serving humbly one another*
 - Providing the message as I have sent you*
- 5. *Now that you know, DO the work of God, and you will be blessed*