

Sermon Discussion

10 May 2020

Read John 13:1-20

Dig Deeper

The word “world” (Gr. cosmos) is an important one in this section of the Gospel where it appears about 40 times (chapters 13-17). The world represents the mass of lost humanity out of which Jesus has called His disciples and from which He would depart shortly when He returned to heaven. Jesus loved His own who believed on Him who would remain in the world. He loved them to the end, the demonstration of which was His sacrificial death on the cross.

“The end” can also refer to the end of Jesus’ earthly life, though this interpretation seems less fitting. Jesus’ realization that His hour had come (12:23) led Him to prepare His disciples for that hour and what it would mean for them. The double emphasis on love sets the tone for the whole Upper Room Discourse.

1. What does it mean to wash one another’s feet? What examples did you draw from this weekend’s message?
2. Why do you think Peter initially reacted as he did? When Jesus tells Peter he must accept Christ’s humble act of service or else he will have no part in Christ, how does Peter respond? What does this tell us about Peter’s love for Jesus?
3. To what extent should we share our struggles with one another? What criteria apply?
4. Is it more difficult to wash someone else’s dirty feet or to let them wash your dirty feet? Why? How can the difficulties be overcome?
5. What is the difference between "Teacher" and "Lord" (John 13:13)? To you, is Jesus both or one?

Application

- Talk about why it may be hard for you to “show people your dirty feet.”
- List some practical ways that you can get involved in “foot-washing” (humble service). Put it into your schedule and do it.

Pray

Lord, guide me by Your Spirit to those who are in need. Grant me boldness to help them while remaining humble so as not to seek attention. Shine Your light on my own life where the dirt that I carry may be cleansed by someone I trust.