

Sermon: **“The Servant King” (John 13:1-17)**

Date: **March 17, 2019**

The Upper Room Discourse is an intimate discussion between Christ and his disciples moments before he was betrayed and arrested. This discourse is found in the book of John in chapters 13-17. In this week’s study, we are going to look at what takes place at the beginning of this section of Scripture in John 13:1-17. Before Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper, before he is betrayed by one of his disciples and abandoned by the rest, before he is crucified on a Roman cross, Jesus took time to wash his disciples’ feet. Remember, in the first century, everyone would have worn sandals and the streets would have been very dirty and dusty. Thus, it wouldn’t be out of the ordinary for people to have their feet washed before sitting down for a nice meal. Usually, however, this job was reserved for the lowliest of servants. And here in John 13 we see Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, washing the disgusting, stinky feet of his disciples. This story serves as a shocking illustration of love and a compelling example of servanthood. As Jesus has served us, so also we ought to serve one another.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read John 13:1-17 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Describe the context of John 13:1-17. When did this take place in Jesus’ earthly ministry?
 - b. How does verse 1 serve as an introduction to what Jesus is about to do? How does it even look forward toward the cross?
 - c. Why does the author remind us in verse 3 that Jesus has been “given all things”?
 - d. Why was feet-washing necessary in the first century? Who normally would have been the one to wash feet? Why is this significant?
 - e. What does Peter ask Jesus in verse 6 and why does he ask this? Why doesn’t Peter want Jesus to wash his feet?
 - f. Explain Jesus’ responses to Peter in verse 7 and in verse 8.

- g. Why does Peter respond the way he does in verse 9?

- h. How do verses 10-11 help us interpret this illustration that Jesus is giving to his disciples? What is Jesus teaching them?

- i. What is another reason that Jesus gives for why he washed his disciples' feet (see verse 13)?

- j. Do we need to literally wash one another's feet in order to obey this passage? Why or why not? What is required of us to be obedient to Christ's teaching in this text?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. How does this story point forward to the cross? Be sure to discuss concepts like humility, love, unclean vs. clean, servanthood, etc.

3. How does this story stir your affections for Jesus Christ and cause you to be in awe of all that he has done for you?

4. Jesus knew that he had less than 24 hours left to live and he still chose to serve his disciples in this way. What does Christ's example teach us about the importance and priority of serving others? How does the gospel motivate us as we seek to serve others?

5. How can you follow Jesus' example and humbly serve others in your family? In your small group? In your church? In the world?

6. Is there a situation in your life where you feel called to serve someone else but you've resisted it? Why have you resisted it? Considering this week's study, how can you apply what we've learned to this situation?