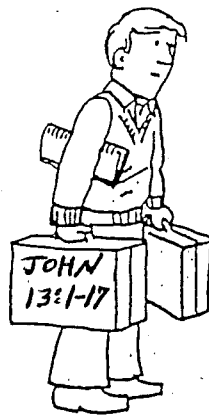


THE CONTRITION OF A DISCIPLE

Isaiah 66: 1 & 2; John 13:1-17



EVERYONE HAS A TOWEL

- ◆ The Feast
- ◆ The Forgiveness
- ◆ The Feet
- ◆ The Favor

“To this man will I look, he that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my Word” (Isaiah 66:2)

Bill Kirk

“THE CONTRITION OF A DISCIPLE”

Text: Isaiah 66: 1 & 2; Luke 22:24; John 13:1-17

Subject: “The Towel Is In Your Hands” (or) (Where Happiness Is Found)

Introduction

1. The setting of John 13 is “awe inspiring”.
2. We find Jesus and the disciples in the upper room before Passover.
3. It is the final of Jesus’ four major discourses:
 - ◆ The Sermon on The Mount. (Matthew 5, 6 & 7)
 - ◆ The Mystery Parables Discourse. (Matthew 13)
 - ◆ The Olivet Discourse. (Matthew 24 & 25)
 - ◆ Now, The Upper Room Discourse (teaching us where true happiness is found).

(Notice Verse 17)

“If ye know these things **happy** are ye if ye do them”

4. It is now Thursday night and the stage is set.
5. The arrest and betrayal are a few hours away.
6. Jesus’ public ministry has ended, the cross is just ahead.
7. Jesus has no message for the Pharisees, religious rulers or the Roman government.

Question: Why does Jesus save the longest of His 4 great discourses for now?

Answer: Because Jesus knew that His disciples were not internally happy or internally healthy.

Question: How do we know this?

Answer: Because in this upper room, Luke 22:24 tells us:

“And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Disputing over who was top dog.
- ◆ Arguing over who would have the highest rank.
- ◆ Jealousy over not being first.
- ◆ Unhappy over the thought of not being recognized.
- ◆ Carnal ambition for power and position.
- ◆ A heated quarrel at the worse possible time.

And Jesus Responds (Instantly):

- ◆ His heart was cut to the core.
- ◆ He had so little time left to teach.
- ◆ How could He get the message across (so they would never forget it)?
- ◆ Thus, Jesus shows us the way to glory in His kingdom.

Question: How does Jesus get the message across forcibly enough?

Question: How does Jesus convey it so that none of us will forget it?

Question: How does Jesus demonstrate this one message by washing the disciples feet?

(“This Morning - The Towel Is In Your Hands”)

I. There Is The “Feast” (A Picture Of Love) (Vs. 1-3)

Question: How does John describe Jesus in v. 1?

Answer: With words that edify the heart of every disciple:

“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”.

Question: What edifies (builds up and encourages) every heart here?

#1. **Jesus Knows (V. 1)**

“When Jesus knew that his hour was come” (Means:)

- ◆ He knew all the particulars of the tragic episode.
- ◆ He knew everything of Calvary that awaited Him.
- ◆ He knew that the crisis time had arrived.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ None of His pain, and suffering, and disappointments, would take Him by surprise. (Not one event)
- ◆ And none of the unexplainable events of your life take Jesus by surprise as well.
(#1 – Jesus knows)

#2. **Jesus Arrived (V.1)**

“He should depart out of this world unto the Father” (Means something)

Question: Pastor, why is Jesus in heaven right now (what is He doing?)

Answer: #1. He is preparing a place for your eternal habitation. (John 14)

#2. He is building His church by saving thousands of people every day.
(Matthew 16:18)

#3. He is interceding for you and me before the Father. (Hebrews 7:25)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus is alive and well and preparing to return.

#3. **Jesus Cares (V.1)**

“...Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end”

Question: Who does Jesus love?

Answer: “Those left in the world”

- ◆ This refers to those who follow Him.
- ◆ This refers to those He would give His life for.
- ◆ This refers to you and me who have been provided the gift of salvation.
- ◆ This means that the Lord will care for you while you walk through this world and culture and system and minister to you.

Question: But pastor, the disciples had so many faults and imperfections?

- ◆ Yet Jesus loves them until the end comes.
- ◆ Loves us with patient perseverance.
- ◆ Doesn't quit on you when you stumble and sin.

II. **There Is The “Forgiveness” (A Picture Of Grace) (Vs. 4-10)**

(V. 6) “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

(V. 7) “Jesus answers Peter”

(V. 8) “Peter saith unto Jesus, thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered and said, if I wash thee not, you'll have no part with Me”.

(V. 9) “Peter says, Lord wash all of me, my feet, my hands and my head”

(V. 10) “Jesus said, He that is washed needs not, save to wash his feet”

(See The Picture Here)

- ◆ Jesus approaches Peter to wash his feet.
- ◆ Peter counts it too humiliating for Jesus to do this.
- ◆ Peter draws back in objection – **“The Lord of the universe will never wash my feet”**

Question: Why does Peter object to Jesus washing his feet?

Answer: Because Peter is missing the whole purpose of the washing.

Question: What is the purpose of Jesus washing Peter’s feet?

Answer: Jesus is giving us a picture of spiritual cleansing from sin:

- ◆ In Jesus’ day, men went to public baths for bathing.
- ◆ A man would then put on his sandals to walk home.
- ◆ In every house there was a basin to wash the feet upon arrival.
- ◆ The feet would pick up dirt in the streets (even though the man had just come from a bath).
- ◆ And Peter misses what Jesus wants us all to know.

#1. (V.8) “If I wash you not Peter, you’ll have no part with me”

#2. (V. 10) “Peter, you’ve had a bath already; I just need to wash your feet now” **(In Other Words)**

#1. The bath represents salvation, when we are fully cleansed from all sin.

#2. But the feet only, represents that continual cleansing we all need as we walk through a polluted world of sin. **(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Washing Peter’s feet has a deeper spiritual meaning. (What is it?)

#1. Jesus came to earth to wash us and cleanse us from our sin.

#2. If we don’t allow Him to do it, (v. 8) we forfeit a relationship that gives meaning to life.

#3. (V. 10) There is a need for all of us, to continually come clean before God, and wash off the dirt we pick up along the way:

- ◆ Life brings defilement to us all.
- ◆ Everyone needs spiritual washing of the soul.
- ◆ Jesus continues to sanctify us if we humble ourselves and let Him.

Question: How many people have said what Peter said in (v. 8): “You’ll never wash my feet Lord”

- ◆ All Jesus wanted to do was: (Not just wash Peter’s feet and make him socially acceptable for the dinner).
- ◆ Jesus wanted to cleanse Peter of his deeper need (sin) to make him fit for the kingdom of God.

Question: Why is Jesus teaching this in His final hours?

Answer: Because in (v. 8) He says “If I wash you not, you have no part with Me”

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The external washing is a picture of spiritual washing.
- ◆ And, if we ignore coming clean from sin, to that same degree we forfeit our fellowship with Jesus.

(And The Beauty Of Verse 8 Is:)

- ◆ Jesus wants to forgive us and cleanse us from all sin.
- ◆ Jesus died to forgive us and cleanse us from all sin.
- ◆ Jesus pleads for us to let Him “Bring to the surface” what needs to be washed and removed.

#1. The Feast

#2. The Forgiveness

III. There Is The “Feet” (A Picture Of Contrition) (Vs. 11-16)

(See the picture)

- ◆ Palestine was hot and dusty,

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- ◆ Most people wore sandals and their feet became extremely dirty.
- ◆ A water basin sat at the entrance of Jewish homes.
- ◆ Upon entering the door, the servant (salve) would do the washing of the feet.

(But There Is A Problem Here)

- ◆ This meeting was intended by Jesus to be secret.
- ◆ Thus, no servant slaves were present.
- ◆ And not one of the twelve disciples would volunteer for such a menial task.

Question: Why did the disciples refuse to take the initiative and wash feet?

Answer: Because washing feet would be an admission of inferiority to all the others.

- ◆ In John 1:27, John the Baptist used feet washing as the standard of the lowest kind of service that could be required of any man.

(So What Does Jesus Do?)

- #1. Sometime during the meal Jesus rose.
- #2. He removes His outer cloak, ties a towel around His waist and performs the work of a servant.
- #3. It is a volunteer humiliation that rebukes the pride in His audience.

Question: Why does Jesus do this?

Answer: (V. 15) "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you"

(V. 16) "I'm no greater than the Father and you're no greater than me"

Fact: Jesus didn't give us an ordinance!

Fact: Jesus didn't give us a sacrament!

Fact: Jesus gave us an "example" to emphasize an attitude of the heart. (What is it?)

- ◆ It is the attitude that will allow you to be happy and healthy through and through.

(What Is It?)

- ◆ It is an attitude of spirit that understands this one thing:
- ◆ As Jesus was conscious of being sent by the Father, so we are conscious of being sent by Jesus.
- ◆ As Jesus was born with a purpose in mind, so you were born with a purpose in mind.
- ◆ As Jesus served us with His towel, He's placed in everyone here your own towel.

IV. There Is The "Favor" (A Picture Of Obedience) (V. 17)

Question: Why must we be conscious of the towel in our own hands?

Answer: (V. 17) "If you know these things, you'll be "Continually joyful" as long as you keep doing them".

(Doing What?)

- ◆ **Hungering to be holy** and washed from every defilement and pollutions.
- ◆ **Humbling ourselves before God** and using the towel (spiritual gifts) that God has given us all.

Question: What does (v. 17) teach us?

Answer: That a selfish person can never be happy. (Why not?)

- ◆ Because Holy Joy comes from God and flows through those humble enough to serve another (and take the lowest road).

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

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