

John 13:12–17

12So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

13You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

14If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

15For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

16Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

17If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

### “Foot Washing, Part 2”

John 13:12–17

The last time we were in the upper room with Jesus, we witnessed a shocking event. When no disciple lowered himself to wash the other’s feet, the Lord Jesus Himself did the job. There was a point to this. The first lesson we were meant to learn had to do with individual cleansing. The Apostle John taught this by including the conversation with Peter. However, the lesson is not complete with this individual application. We also must master the second lesson which has a corporate application.

#### **I. He Prepared to Teach Them (verse 12)**

#### **II. The Principles (verses 13-15)**

#### **III. The Ultimate Reality (verses 16-17)**

##### **I. He Prepared to Teach Them (v.12)**

***“So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you?’”***

A. After this startling demonstration, Jesus returned to His role as their Lord, and prepared to teach His lessons.

B. No doubt silence reigned as Jesus prepared to make His points.

## II. The Principles (verses 13-15)

***“Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”***

A. We know from our Lord’s discussion with Peter that the first lesson from the foot washing was about our need for cleansing from sin. Now we come to the second expanded lesson the disciples and we are to learn from the foot washing.

B. Our Lord made two points in verses 13-15. First, who the Lord Jesus was who did such an astounding thing. He said, ***“You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.”***

1. The first word identifies Him as a Rabbi. Typically a Rabbi’s disciples lived with him and they did all the menial tasks the Rabbi needed done.

2. Second, He was and is Lord. This was the favorite word to translate the word Yahweh in the LXX.

3. The application flows from this statement. ***“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”*** If our Lord Jesus, He who is greater than all, is willing to lower Himself to wash feet (serve us), none of us are so great that we cannot lower ourselves to serve our brethren in Christ.

C. Some things in the Bible have to do with us individually. For example, no one can believe for us in order for us to be saved. No one else can confess our sins and be forgiven in 1 John 1:9.

D. This latter application in verses 14-15 has to do with what we do for others in the Bible. Let me give you some examples of this in the Scriptures.

1. First look at ***Matthew 20:25-28***. In the context, James and John got mom to ask Jesus for the privilege of sitting on His right hand and left hand in the kingdom. When the others hear this, they are not happy. ***“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’”*** The issue in Christian greatness is not how many you boss around, but how many you serve.

2. Second, in **Hebrews 3:12-13**, we see more of our responsibility to minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ. ***“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*** We are responsible to exhort one another daily, so we can help others not allow a heart of unbelief to sneak into their hearts.

3. Third, we learn in **Hebrews 10:25**, our having Christ as our high priest presses upon us certain duties. ***“and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*** Our own faithfulness is our responsibility, but we are also to seek to help others remain faithful.

### III. The Ultimate Reality (verses 16-17)

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”***  
(verses 16-17)

A. Jesus did not want the disciples nor us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. We need to remember our relationship with our Lord is one of children to a Father. However, it is also one of servant to a master and a messenger to the one who sent him.

B. Here ultimately is the standard against which our service is to be measured. ***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”*** (John 13:34)

C. We all do fairly well in discharging our individual responsibility to Jesus. However, how do we do with the standard Jesus put before us here?

***“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants (slaves) for Jesus’ sake.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:5)

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