

“A Different Kind of King”
John 13:1-17

One of the last things Jesus spoke to the crowd was,
³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” ... John 12:36 (NKJV)

As I told you last week, part of the LIGHT Jesus displayed to the crowds was His miracles, most recently the raising of Lazarus, and the Voice speaking to Him from Heaven.

Yet, another very real and IMPORTANT part of the LIGHT which Jesus was communicating was His teaching. He was teaching about His death; He would serve us by dying for our sins.

This is not what the Jewish leaders expected or desired from their “Messiah” they were looking for another David, one who would defeat their enemy, the Romans. They got a Son of David, yet one Who would conquer a BIGGER ENEMY sin & Satan ... in a humbler way!

Here in John 13, we see Jesus’ LIGHT shining brightly, not a I-am-going-to-conquer-the-Romans Light, no, no, no ... an “I am going to conquer your sin and pride light!”

With His own apostles, He shines brightly as the loving, humble Servant Light ...

I. By washing His disciples’ feet Jesus manifested Himself (He SHINES) as a loving, humble Servant King –

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. John 13:1 (NKJV)

³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. John 13:3–5 (NKJV)

1. An expression of Jesus’ love to His own, who were in the world, washing their feet –

A. Loved them to the end, means to the end of His life in this world, He knew what would soon happen to Himself, His death on the cross, but it did not distract Him from serving His loved ones.

B. He knew (He had not forgotten Who He was and Is) He knew He was and Is KING of kings, LORD of lords, God’s only begotten Son, yet He humbles Himself, like a lowly servant.

II. This lovey-dovey humility irks Judas (& Satan) to no end –

² And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, John 13:2 (NKJV)

1. *Satan was already in Judas' heart...*
2. *The rulers of this world, who rule by brute force, were Satan's; the ruler of this world's minions "...now the ruler of this world will be cast out." John 12:32*
3. *Judas was all for casting out rulers, probably why he started with Jesus, but in his thinking, this would require the same BRUTE FORCE which brought them into power, actually MORE, Judas would fight fire with FIRE ...*
4. *Jesus, wrapped in a servant's towel was the OPPOSITE of what Judas desired or expected.*
 - A. *Judas had seen Jesus' miracles...*
 - B. *By the power of God's Spirit Judas probably performed healings and miracles... He had seen LIGHT!*
 - C. *Yet this ULTRA-BRIGHT LIGHT, meant only for Jesus true followers, this Light showing Jesus, God-of-the-Universe, with all things into His hands, SERVING in a LOWLY manner (washing feet) was too much for Judas to handle ...*

III. Jesus washing of the disciple feet was symbolic of a greater washing –

⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "**What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.**" ⁸ Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.**" ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "**He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.**" ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "**You are not all clean.**" John 13:6–11 (NKJV)

1. *Simon Peter's reaction, Lord, are You washing my feet?" :6 first, unbelief Jesus would do this! Second refusal -⁸ Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" :8*
 - A. *This attitude Peter had was in deference to Jesus, Peter knew Who Jesus was and Is, he did not want to see Jesus in a lowly, humble position ...*

B. But Peter had been WRONG before –

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**" Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)

2. Peter did not understand – **“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.”** John 13:7

A. That this washing is symbolic of a greater washing is indicated in Jesus’ words – **If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”** John 13:8

B. The connection to a deeper more important WASHING is communicated by Jesus in :10-11 –

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, **“He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.”** ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, **“You are not all clean.”** John 13:10–11 (NKJV)

Judas’ feet were probably as clean as anyone’s Jesus cleaned his too, but Judas’ heart and soul were not cleansed ... that would require belief in Jesus and His death on the CROSS, like Jesus’ other enemies, to Judas the cross was a stumbling block, even HUMILITY on Jesus part bothered him!

C. Jesus’ counts the other disciple “clean” because He knew what He was going to do for them -

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and **washed us from our sins in His own blood**, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

3. Jesus is Ruler over the kings of the earth, not despite His humble self-sacrifice, but because of it –

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV)

IV. In His service and self-sacrifice Jesus is both our Savior & Our Example –

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? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most 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. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.** John 13:12–17 (NKJV)

1. A different kind of King, Teacher and Lord - ¹³ **You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.**

- A. *Lords in this ungodly world expect to be SERVED* – ²⁵ **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.**
- B. *A different king means a different kingdom – Jesus would have us wash one-another’s feet, not necessarily literally -*
²⁶ **Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25–28 (NKJV)**
- C. *If our Master was a Servant, we are all called to be servants, especially those who are leaders, this Jesus says is a blessing to us, His is a different kind of kingdom – In a vicious world, where the Bible describes kingdoms, empires in terms of beasts, we have a different kind of Kingdom, one that an ungodly world seeks to destroy, and yet it endures -*
⁶ **For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)**

Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro' days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, We lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper The sweet Amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums,
With deeds of love and mercy The heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal, We follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning Wherever Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might.
Ernest W. Shurtleff

“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

Love is the mark of Christ and His Kingdom - ³⁴ **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34–35 (NKJV)**

Arnold A. Brevick