

This footwashing scene reveals both Jesus' authority and his servanthood. For the disciples, it was hard to understand how these two themes could go together. Is that true today? Do you find it easier to see one of these themes rather than the other? If so, why?

In your life, what does it look like to follow Jesus' example?

The life of Jesus

*“An Example to
Follow”*

John 13:1-17
November 5th, 2006

The preparation begins...

“The entire section is controlled by one purpose: Jesus' preparation of his followers for the immediate future—that is, the trauma and loss resulting from his crucifixion and burial—and the time after his ascension.” – Andreas Köstenberger

A goal to pursue...

“It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.” (John 13:1-2)

alternative translation: “he loved them to the very end”

An example to follow...

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

- Two Themes:
 - authority
 - servanthood

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them. ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:12-17)

Describe an experience where you went from being an “observer” to a “doer.” What is needed to make this type of transition successfully?

Why is it necessary for Jesus to prepare his followers for his departure? What might have happened if had not done this?

On one hand, the experience of the disciples in John 13-17 is a unique, never-to-be-repeated event. On the other hand, it is also an example for us. Like the disciples, we are in the process of learning from Christ with the expectation that we will do what he says. What happens if we are willing to be “observers” but not willing to be “doers”?

In Jesus’ actions, he is revealing the true nature of “love”—it is love with a purpose. Describe how “love” is understood in our culture. How do these popular definitions of “love” compare with Jesus’ definition?

Do you have questions/comments about what you have heard? You can contact George at 237-6094 or george@salemefc.org

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