

Jesus' Last Lesson - John 13:1-16
10-27-13

In John 13 we see Jesus last lesson to His disciples. It was a lesson on serving one another, done in such a manner that they were likely never to forget it, although the remainder of the evening's events would overshadow this teaching. Jesus commanded them (and us) to serve in this way. The commandment is not to the literal washing of feet (we do not see this referenced again; we understand it was a cultural practice), but the concept of serving each other. This is the Spiritual Servant's role

First and foremost a Christian is a Servant. In Romans 6:6-23 Paul tells us that we are slaves to that which we serve; either sin or Christ. But to Christ, we have been purchased by His blood with a reward of eternal life (as opposed to death for serving sin). This service means we no longer live for ourselves, but for the one who has purchased us.

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" Galatians 2:20

How Are We A Servant? First we are a servant to God. An example of this is in Philippians 2:1-13. There we are called to be servants like Christ, doing the will of God without complaint. Paul said that in doing so we are "working out your salvation".

Second, we are servants to God's People. John said that "he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20b). In Hebrews 10:22-25 we are told that our assembling together is done as service to one another. We are told that we are to aid one another in overcoming sin in Galatians 6:1-2.

Washing Feet was the ultimate lesson of a Servant. It is no wonder that this was the prophetic messenger of whom Isaiah said "*He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities*" in Isaiah 53:11.

Under the Law of Moses, "If the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever." (Exodus 21:5-6). Under the New Law, there is another form of formal indenturing to the master: Romans 6:1-23

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"