

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard
Elliott Baptist Church
November 17, 2002

He Left an Example
John 13:12-17

INTRO: What has just taken place? What has Jesus just done? John 13:12 says: "...he had washed their feet." Jesus had, with tenderness, taken each of the disciples feet and washed them! As a servant, He had humbly served the Apostles.

After having washed their feet, Jesus makes a practical application of what He had just done. This is what we want to consider now.

1. VS 12, A SEARCHING QUESTION

1. In John 13:4, we read that Jesus laid aside His garments. Now in verse 12, he takes them up again.

1. In verse 4, we read that, "he riseth from supper."

1. Supper speaks of communion. Jesus arose and left heaven's communion, a communion He had had with the Father for all eternity.

2. He, "laid aside his garments and took a towel and girded himself."

1- He laid aside His outward glory and took on Him the form of a servant. This is the thing that we need to see. We need to see Jesus as the humble servant, our humble example (Phil 2:7).

2- His garments of royalty were laid aside. He took the towel of humanity and wrapped it around Himself; and in a body of flesh and blood, he shed His blood for sinners.

3- He became poor that we might be rich (I Cor 8:9).

4- He took on flesh, became a man. And He has felt every pain and understands all our temptations (Heb 4:14-15).

2. Here in verse 12, we read that Jesus took up His garments, put them on and sat down.

1. This is a picture of what Jesus did after the resurrection.

2. Jesus returned to the presence of the Father, resumed His original glory, and sat down on high (John 17:5).

3. Heb 10:5, 10-14.

2. Notice with me that He washed all of their feet. You and I are prejudicial; we are judgmental; we are not willing to love and serve all. Jesus washed the feet of Judas!

1. There are those who won't even wash the feet of the saints, much less give the time of day to a Judas.

2. Study carefully the words of Galatians 6:10.

3. "He said unto them; know ye what I have done to you?"
 1. They knew He had washed their feet; beyond that, they didn't know.
 2. They were silent, unable to answer, unable to act.
 3. He had saved them, and He wanted fellowship with them. He wanted them to have daily cleansing after being saved by grace. Grace goes on to teach us how to be clean daily (Titus 2:11).

2. VS 13, HE IS LORD AND MASTER
 1. It is well when we address Him as "Master and Lord."
 1. We should always address our Savior with reverence.
 2. It would be good if we would refer to our Redeemer as "Lord and Master."
 3. Some cannot call Jesus Lord. They call Him Jesus. They use the name over and over, but they don't say "Lord Jesus" because they cannot do so rightfully (I Cor 12:3).
 2. Jesus Christ the Lord claims for Himself deity and greatness.
 1. John 10:30: "I and my Father are one."
 2. John the Baptist recognized who Jesus is and proclaimed His greatness (John 1:7-8, 15, 27). (Think also of verse 14).

3. VSS 14-16, THE EXAMPLE HAS BEEN GIVEN
 1. Vs 14, If the Lord and Master washed the disciples feet, they ought to wash each other's feet.
 1. We are to submit to our Lord's will. His will is that we humbly wash each other's feet.
 2. Yes, I know that some are more orthodox than others, supposedly more spiritual. But, the orthodox often become cold and the spiritual become like the Pharisees.
 3. J. Vernon McGee said: "We may have our heads full of doctrine, but our feet smell. Brother, there is nothing that smells as bad as unwashed feet!" (McGee vol 4 p453).
 4. If Jesus our Lord girded Himself with a towel and washed feet, so can we. We need to love and serve one another.
 2. Vs 15, We need to learn from our Savior; He is our example. He loves us; we need to love one another.
 1. He restored Peter. We need to restore the weak in love (Gal 6:1).
 2. One of the reasons that we do not follow our Lord's example is because we want our rights, our way. We need to follow the example of our teacher (I Pet 2:21-23).
 3. "What Jesus had in mind was not an outward rite but an inner attitude, that of humility and eagerness to serve" (Hendriksen 236).
 3. Vs 16, Think of what Christ is saying! Those who are servants of the Lord, those who are called to be His Ambassadors, are to be humble and act in the way our Lord did.
 1. One of the needs in many churches today is to be more like Jesus in our

lives and actions.

2. May we all, with the Psalmist, ask God to search our hearts (Psalm 139:23-24).

4. VS 17, FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

1. Those who practice humility will be blessed.
2. If we can truly grasp what Jesus has done for us, His subjects, we would do more, and we would be better. Think of what Christ did in leaving heaven's glory to come to this sin cursed earth.
3. There are two things that are very important to understand if we are going to be blessed.
 1. We need to place our feet into the hands of Jesus for cleansing (13:8).
 2. We need to wash one another's feet (13:14).
4. Many do not understand what true greatness is about. They have swallowed the world's philosophy. Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 23:11.

CONCLUSION: To follow our Lord's example, we must understand what true greatness is. Not what the world says, but what the Bible says (Mt 23:8-12).