



The Lord's Table Love to the End

Do This And Be Blessed

John records some additional information surrounding the Lord's Table that the synoptic gospels omit—specifically Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. What does this teach us?

A. Jesus Loves Us *John 13:1*

1. **To the end:** We know that God loves the world (*John 3:16*). He also loves those who believe in Him—and that love continues through to completion of His purpose for us.
2. **Demonstration of love:** The events that follow serve to demonstrate the depth of God's love.

B. Love and Cleansing *John 13:2-11*

1. **Jesus and Judas:** [2-4] Judas' heart was filled with Satan's plans for Jesus. From *verse :3* we see that Jesus knew His (1) origin (2) destiny, and (3) authority. Yet—rather than rebuke or cast Judas out—He washed his feet.
2. **Jesus and Peter:** The disciples would have washed Jesus feet—but they would never let Jesus wash their feet nor would they wash each others feet. Besides cultural issues, the disciples 'pride' would refuse to take the lower role of a servant. Yet Jesus came to be a servant. See *Phil 2:3-8*
 - a. **Faith:** [7-8] When Peter did not understand something he had a 'faith' crises.
3. **Atonement and cleansing:** [10-11] Feet washing here is both a foreshadow of Christ's death on the cross (*atonement*) and continued cleansing (*sanctification*) for the believer. *1 John 1:9*

NOTE: From *verse :11* we find support for the idea that the sacraments are symbolic and do not result in cleansing or regeneration. Otherwise Judas would have been cleansed.

C. Love and Conduct *John 13:12-17*

1. **New Covenant preparation:** Remember—this event takes place during supper but before Judas leaves and Jesus establishes the New Covenant. This is a teaching lesson on how we come to the Lord's Table and on the conduct of love—which is humility.
2. **Communion equalizer:** Jesus uses 'contrast' to drive home the point of 'communion.' Teacher/Lord and student, master and servant, the sent and the sender. The point is that one is not greater than another in the kingdom of God—except the King (Messiah Jesus).
3. **An example to follow:** The Greek word for example also means a 'pattern.' Jesus is admonishing us that humility should be the pattern of life for the believer. If Jesus, the King of the Kingdom washed the feet of the disciples including Judas—should we not likewise conduct ourselves with that same attitude of humility?

Now that you know these things, will you do them?

John 13:1-17 (NKJV)

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.**

² And supper being ended [*lit Greek: during supper*], the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 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. 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."

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.