

“A Life of Self-Renouncing Love”

John 13:1-17

Jesus initiates His disciples into one of the great lessons of His Kingdom.

1. The Love of the Servant

vv. 1-3

(1) Love to the “last breath!”

“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) Love in the face of satanic opposition!

“...the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, to betray Him”

(3) Triumphant Love

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God”

- With a full consciousness of the sure triumph of His mission
- With a full consciousness of His divine identity

2. The Action of the Servant

vv. 4-11

**(1) The Task – Lowly, Menial,
but Necessary**

“Jesus...rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself ...and began to wash the disciples’ feet”

- Usually assigned to a slave, servant, or child
- But it had been left undone!
- cf. Luke 22:24 ff. A dispute among the disciples: which should be considered the greatest(!)

(2) Jesus readily takes it up!

- Consistent with His whole disposition!
- Emblematic of His whole mission!

(3) The (quite natural!) Reaction - Voiced by Peter (6-11)

-1- Peter *questions* – Jesus calls him to submit, and provides sufficient reason

-2- Peter *refuses* to receive such service – Jesus says he *must* receive such

-3- Peter would *direct* Jesus in His service – Jesus patiently instructs him.

3. The Lesson of the Servant

vv. 12-17

(1) A Question to Be Pondered (12)

“Do you know what I have done to you?”

(2) The Instruction (13-17)

- **A Powerful Argument** 13-14

- **An Enduring Example** 15

- **A Kingdom Principle: True greatness will always be measured by service.** 16

- **A “Beatitude” of such service** 17

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”