

Verses 12-16

Jesus is their Teacher (Rabbi) and Lord (references His deity). The washing of their feet was pointing to the work of Christ as He humbled Himself by taking on flesh and the form of a servant and was obedient to death on a cross. This was His love for His elect on display to the end and through His death, those who are His would be cleansed from sin.

However, Jesus was also showing them they are to act in humility and have a servant's heart toward other believers as Christ has shown by example.

- **Phil 2:3-8** *Do nothing ^[a]from ^[d]selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude ^[e]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be ^[f]grasped, ⁷ but ^[g]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death ^[h]on a cross.*

In Luke account of the Last Supper, the disciples were discussing who was the greatest among themselves. Jesus' answer is that the one who serves in humility and love toward others is the greatest.

- **Luke 22:19-27** *And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with ^[a]Mine on the table. ²² For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing. *And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. ²⁵ And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.'* ²⁶ *But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.**

The Holy Spirit indwells believers. The Holy Spirit points people to the Father and the Son. He does not speak about Himself, but rather points people to the Word and the Word has exegeted the Father. Those who are indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit should display that same mindset and attitude and make the focus about God, rather than ourselves in humility. If Christ who is above all can demonstrate this humility and act of serving, we should never be prideful to think that command is beneath us.

- **John 15:26** *"When the ^[b]Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,*
- **John 16:13-14** *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*
- **Luke 14:11** *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*
- **1 Peter 5:5** *You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

Verse 17

- There is greatest blessedness in obedience to God. Our actions and works do not save us, but our works come from a heart that has been changed by God. We are not saved by works, but unto good works and obedience. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments (**John 14:15**) as sanctification is what the elect are predestined unto (**Romans 8:29**).

Verse 18

- Although God had chosen Judas as a disciple, He was not chosen as one of the elect. Jesus will then cite **Psalm 41:9** as the prophecy that is to be fulfilled with Judas.
 - **Psalm 41:5-9** *My enemies speak evil against me, "When will he die, and his name perish?"⁶ And ^[e]when he comes to see me, he speaks ^[f]falsehood; His heart gathers wickedness to itself; When he goes outside, he tells it.⁷ All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt, saying, ⁸"A wicked thing is poured out ^[g]upon him, That when he lies down, he will not rise up again."⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.*

Verse 19

Jesus states that from now on He is going to tell them what is going to happen before it happens so that when it does happen (absolute certainty that what He says will happen, will happen) they will believe that He is Ego Eimi (Yahweh). This is a reference to deity the words Ego Eimi are the words used in the Septuagint in **Exodus 3:14** in describing the name of God.

Verse 20

Jesus expresses the urgency of His next words by using "truly, truly." Jesus tells them that whoever receives those He sends, receives Him and those who receive Him receive the Father because the Father had sent Him. This was true of the disciples and the apostles who spread the gospel after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and can apply to us today. When we as true believers witness and evangelize, we encounter people who reject the gospel and we can be tempted to take it personally. However, they are not rejecting us, but are rejecting the Son, and by rejecting the Son that are ultimately rejecting the Father.

Christ has led by example as the Sovereign God humbled Himself and became a servant to ransom those who were His. If the Sovereign can be a servant, then who are we to think that having a servant's heart in all humility is beneath us. Let us contemplate the depths of the humility that Jesus displayed and as His followers mirror Him. The greatest weapon in destroying our pride is the Holy Spirit bringing the Scriptures alive in our souls. For as we read of Christ, who He is, what He has done, and who we are then our pride will be broken, our praise will be sincere and God honoring, and our lives will be lived out with service and humility toward God and others. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (**Mark 10:45**).