

Oct 25, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:
James Haymon

Class Leaders:
Inreach: Pat Hester
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
O that my life may useful be
As I serve Jesus faithfully;
And may His love be seen in me
This is my earnest prayer.
—Hess

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another
(Gal 5:13 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", June 07, 2008)

Series: Love For One Another

UNIT: Godly Love Among Believers

NEXT WEEK

Love Never Fails
(1 Cor 13:1-13)

Serving Love **John 13:1-15, 34-35**

Lesson Background and Introduction

All four Gospels include a retelling of the last supper, but the earliest surviving account is from Paul. He shared a description of the supper, material he learned from the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:23a), about 25 years after the actual event. While the accounts from Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-39; and 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 are similar, the way John records the story is quite different. The focus of the other accounts (the bread and cup) are in the background of John's last supper. Rather than the institution of the elements of the Lord's Supper, John includes two things the other accounts leave out. The first is the content of our lesson today. Is your "whole body clean" but you still have dirty feet from pride and lack of love? Is your heart, your inner being, truly clean? Washing your feet or your hands will not clean your heart. No doctor prescribes handwashing for heart disease. Jesus does not seek people with hard, dirty spirits who have immaculate personal hygiene. He wants those with "clean hands and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:4; contrast Matthew 23:25-26). Jesus bids us to take action. As we serve others, we follow Jesus. When we humble ourselves, our hearts are changed. Loving service will help our hearts stay clean. Can you think of someone you can serve this week? Remember, they will not know you by your love if you do not show your love in service.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Loving Is Serving - Jesus gathered His 12 disciples together for the final meal before His crucifixion. He used this precious time to prepare them for what was coming and give clarity concerning their future ministry. During the meal, Jesus proposed several challenges for them to continue His work. They would need to extend themselves with deep compassion, going out among the people in order to minister to their needs. To show them what He meant, Jesus got up from the table and began to wash His disciples feet. No one had bothered to do the menial task of washing everyone's feet before the meal. But Jesus chose to do so. He demonstrated deep love and servant-centered humility.

Peter's Objections - Peter protested Jesus washing his feet. However, Jesus made it plain that Peter must allow this to happen, so he told Jesus to then wash him thoroughly. Jesus explained that Peter did not need to be bathed all over. When an unbeliever confesses and trusts Christ's finished work on the Cross for his or her sins, that is like a complete bath, a total cleansing from sin done once and for all (Heb. 10:17). However, though your sins are forgiven, we have daily sins, like dirty feet. Our sinful attitudes and actions hinder the closeness that is possible between us and God. So, there is no need for a head to toe "bath" but we must ask the Lord to search our heart to "see if there be any wicked way" in us (Ps. 139:24, KJV) that needs "washing."

Loving Each Other Sets Apart the Christian - After the foot washing, Jesus called His disciples to follow His example. This Christlike love marks the believer. Jesus repeatedly said to love God and love one another, and His crucifixion on the Cross showed just what that love is like.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Serving with Loving Humility (John 13:1-5)

Humility at the right time (1-3)

- Right time that God controls (Ps 31:15)
- Right time while Jesus' light is available (John 12:35)
- Right time because the days are evil (Eph 5:15-16)
- Right time to make the most of every opportunity (Col 4:5)
- Right time to do good especially to other Christians (Gal 6:10)

Humility in action (4)

- Humility that considers others better than ourselves (Phil 2:3)
- Humility that comes from being one of God's chosen people (Col 3:12)
- Humility that should be shown toward all men (Titus 3:2)
- Humility that comes from godly wisdom (James 3:13)

Humility in service (5)

- Service that does God's work and what He has assigned us (Heb 6:10)
- Service toward the goal and call of God (Phil 3:14)
- Service that is consistent with God's will (Heb 10:36)
- Service that does good works (Eph 2:10)
- Service that is zealous (Gal 4:18)

Serving after being Cleansed (John 13:6-15)

Cleansed by Jesus (6-7)

- Cleansed by the shed blood of Jesus (Heb 9:22)
- Cleansed by coming near to God (James 4:8)
- Cleansed by the word of God (1 Tim 4:5)
- Cleansed by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11)

Cleansed spiritually (8-11)

- A spiritual cleansing that is done inwardly (2 Cor 4:16)
- A spiritual cleansing that comes from being forgiven (2 Chron 7:14)
- A spiritual cleansing of the heart (Ps 147:3)
- A spiritual cleansing by the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:14)

Cleansed unconditionally (12-13)

- Unconditional through Jesus and His Word (1 Peter 1:22)
- Unconditional through the light of Jesus (1 John 1:7)
- Unconditional through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:11)
- Unconditional through Jesus sprinkled our hearts (Heb 10:22)

Cleansed as an example (14-15)

- An example of His forgiveness (Ps 86:5)
- An example of His grace (Rom 5:15)
- An example of the greatness of His love (Eph 3:18-19)
- An example of the power of His love (Rom 8:39)

Serving with Love (John 13:34-35)

Love that is commanded (34)

- God commands to love Him (Deut 6:5)
- God commands to love as God has loved us (John 13:34-35)
- God commands to love by living a life of love (Eph 5:1-2)
- God commands to love as God has taught (1 Thess 4:9-10)
- God commands to love with sincerity (1 Peter 1:22)

Love for others (35)

- Love others by the gift of love (1 Cor 13:2-3)
- Love others by loving as a brother (Heb 13:1-3)
- Love others by turning a sinner from the error of their way (James 5:20)
- Love others by being willing to lay down life for them (John 15:13)