

John 13:1–17 “The Call to Humble Service”

Disciples of Jesus Christ reflect His love, by knowing their identity in Christ, and serving others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Context:

In these last hours before the cross, in the Upper Room discourse, Jesus doesn't perform a public miracle. Instead, He kneels. He chooses to model sacrificial love. Foot washing was the job of the lowest servant, never of a rabbi or respected teacher. By taking that role, Jesus shattered every social expectation and redefined greatness according to the values of His kingdom. His actions displayed a love that serves—not because people deserve it, but because a heart shaped by God's love chooses to serve.

Passage Outline

- **I. How Biblical Love Expresses Itself (vv. 1–5)**
- **II. Our Need To Be Washed (vv. 6–11)**
- **III. A Blessing Found when Serving Like Jesus (vv. 12–17)**

Passage Notes

I. How Biblical Love Expresses Itself (vv. 1–5)

 **Biblical love expresses itself through humble action and sacrificial service.** With full knowledge of His divine identity, Jesus chooses the lowest possible act of service, rising from supper and taking the form of a servant to wash the disciples' feet. This unexpected act embodies His love and reveals that true greatness in God's kingdom is displayed through humble, sacrificial service.

II. Our Need To Be Washed (vv. 6–11)

 **Jesus teaches that salvation is permanent, but fellowship with Him requires continual cleansing as we walk with Him.** Jesus explains that although Peter does not understand now, he will later recognize that ongoing cleansing is essential for fellowship and fruitful service. The distinction Jesus makes between being “bathed” and simply washing the feet reveals that salvation is a once-for-all cleansing, but fellowship with Christ requires continual confession and cleansing.

III. A Blessing Found when Serving Like Jesus (vv. 12-17)

 **Jesus teaches that true greatness—and true blessing—comes from humbly serving others just as He served us.** He reminds the disciples that although He is their Teacher and Lord, His authority did not keep Him from taking the lowest position in the room. By giving them an example of humble, sacrificial service, He redefines greatness as serving others the way He served them. With that comes a spiritual blessing.

What This Means For Us

- ***The love of Christ is seen when we serve others with the same humble heart Jesus showed us.***
 - *Who do we need to serve today?*
 - **Love them the way Jesus loved you—by willingly taking the lower place, even when it costs comfort or pride.**

- ***Walk in daily fellowship with Christ by letting Him continually cleanse your life so you can serve and reflect Him faithfully.***
 - *What sin have we dismissed in our life?*
 - **Let us confess our sin to restore closeness, joy, and the ability to serve others with Christlike humility, so that we are ready to receive the eternal rewards He desires to give us.**

- ***Live out Christlike humility by serving others daily, because blessing is found in doing what Jesus modeled—not just knowing it.***
 - *Having we been chasing our own blessings?*
 - **Experience the blessing of Jesus, when you start blessing others before yourself, as Christ did.**

 **John 13:14–15 (NKJV)**

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”