*March 12, 2022*

**John’s Gospel: A Portrait of Jesus**

**Events that Reveal His Mission: Part 4**

**Washing the Disciples Feet**

**John 13:1-17**

• This is God’s Word.

• It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.

• It has God for its author,

• salvation for its end,

• and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

• It is the supreme source of truth

• for what we believe

• and how we live.

**Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.” “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!” Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.” Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!” Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:1-17**

**After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing…I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” John 13:12-15**

**What we Can Learn from a Towel and Dirty Feet**

**1. Start with love. End with love.**

**So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35**

**If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:3**

**2. Surrender your power and will.**

**Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything… So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, John 13:3-4**

**3. Serve others.**

**Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.**

**Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:3-4**

**4. Stay clean.**

**Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin…Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:2, 7**

**But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9**