

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 2, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: John 13: 3-5

Title: "What Lesson Did JESUS Teach?"

Immediately I point to vs. 1c, d, which says, "...having loved **HIS** own which were in the world, **HE** loved them unto the end."

The "*deed*" of **JESUS' LOVE** was vs. 5b, "...**HE** began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith **HE** was girded."

To learn "**What Lesson Did JESUS Teach?**", we must consider the "*strains*" [tensions, tensity, tightness] that tugged at **JESUS' heart** at this time.

1. "...JESUS knew that **HIS** hour was come that **HE** would depart out of this world unto **The FATHER...**" v. 1b. (Oh, the difference **HE** made when **HE** came... found me... since with us... but now, **HE** would no longer *walk, talk, do, nor sit* at the table among us).
Is it true that "absence makes the heart grow fonder?"
[Though out of sight, never, would they, could (we) be out of **HIS MIND!**]

JESUS would leave them by a cruel and ignominious death, yet **HE** forgot **HIMSELF**... all about the *pain, the grief, the cruel death of crucifixion* before **HIM**, and spent **HIS** final time and energy showing, 'How *much* **HE LOVED** them!'

2. **JESUS** strained to **LOVING bear** that one of **HIS** disciples had already entertained the idea of "betraying" **HIM**. There *he* sat at the table, holding the secret that **HE** held an interview with the Pharisees and chief priests, and had taken money as a bribe, for *his* **MASTER'S Blood**.

Could **HE (JESUS)** not wonder, "what about the other 11 disciples (called Apostles) would they "*betray ME,*" also? Sure enough, like timid rabbits, they fled at the first bark of the dogs. One showed some fight but it only showed he flunked the exam on "...for we wrestle not against flesh and blood...!" (Ephesians 6: 12)

What did **JESUS** do? Knowing what they were, vs. 4-5, "**HE** riseth from supper, and laid aside **HIS** garments; and took a towel, and girded **HIMSELF**. After that **HE** poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them, with the towel wherewith **HE** was girded."

Mind you, **HE** washed the *traitor'* feet and gently handled that "heel which had been lifted against **HIM**. (Psalm 41: 9, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.") Washing from it the dust gathered in it's secret walk upon that traitor' errand.

And all of them fled in fear! In fear there is torment... "There is no fear in **LOVE**; but perfect **LOVE** casts out fear. But he who fears has not been made perfect in **LOVE**." (I John 4: 18)

3. This “strain” is the most potent. V. 3, “JESUS knowing that **The FATHER** had committed all things into **HIS Hands...**” JESUS knew that there was but a brief interval before **HE** would *die*. **HE** knew **HE** would *lay* in the grave. **HE** knew **HE** would be *raised* from the dead. **HE** knew **HE** would ascend to **The FATHER’S Right Hand**. **HE** knew **HE** would be seated there Eternally as **LORD** over all. **HE** knew **HE** would come again!
HE knew **HE** left us a lesson to be learned...

See this...

Often circumstances alter affections! One can grow richer (as Mama would say, a dime above a nickel) and he soon forgets his friends!

See **JESUS**...

HE never **LOVES** us without becoming our *servitor*. With all **HE** knew, **HE** in *disarray stoops* down before them to their feet and do the *service* of a bondsman.

Church if **JESUS** bore these three “*strains*” [tensions, tensity, tightness] should we like Paul, say and mean it, “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor, angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of **GOD**, which is in **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD**.” (Romans 8: 38, 39)

The Lesson...

1. Be an Host, and continue our LORD’S LOVE for All!

JESUS is The HOST to All... **HE** invites the “*whosoever’s*” (John 3: 16) You ask, How can **HE**? (Romans 5: 6-8) **HE’S** familiar with them (Luke 15: 2, “And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, this man receiveth *sinners*, and eateth with them.”

The last thing **HE** did was *sat* at *Supper* with them (John 13: 2a) ... [not breakfast; not lunch]

HIS last setting for ‘the opening of a *New Dispensation*’ and ‘*New Covenant*’ was a *Supper*...

Luke 14: 15, **JESUS** said, “Blessed is he that shall eat bread at the marriage feast of **The LAMB**.”

Instead of *meat*, **JESUS** gives ‘Bread from on high’ (**HIMSELF**)... instead of wine, **HE** sheds

HIS Blood for “remission of *sins*.” **HE** prepares a “table” in the presence of our enemies.

HE satisfies our mouths with good things!

2. JESUS cares for our *minor matters* with personal interest.

JESUS washed **HIS** disciples’ feet—ease their wearhearts; enlighten their clouded brains; remove the heavy soils of this world... Take your *little things* to **The LORD, HE’S** at your feet.

3. That The Church know that CHRIST continues to Guard our Purity.

By washing *our* feet, **JESUS** certainly keeps us pure but intends we stay pure...

“If we confess our *sins*, **HE** is faithful and just to forgive us our *sins*, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1: 9)