

OASIS: Refueling Leaders (Leader Feeding Zone!)

Week of September 14, 2008

John 13: 1-17 LOVE

- I. Introduction to GC Fall Series
 - a. Theme of year: One Another (edification within the body)
 - b. Fall VISION series: Fruit of the Spirit
 - c. BIG idea of fall series: The Fruit of the Spirit are relational qualities that can only be experienced in community with other Christ-followers and by following the example of Christ. (FBWilkerson)

- II. The Bible study of the Week: John 13: 1-17 LOVE
 - a. Text

John 13:1-17

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.^[a]

2The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- b. BIG idea: Christ-like relationships are characterized by...
self-less devotion to the well-being and spiritual formation of others.

- c. Key verse: John 13: 15 “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” Jesus

III. Advice to study leaders:

- a. Use OIA questions
 O = Observation questions
 I = Interpretation questions
 A = Application questions
- b. Also use process questions: what else? what more?
- c. Pace the study—move on—conclude strong
- d. Reword—put questions in wording that works for you.

Opening question (possible): Why do you think is it sometimes awkward or even embarrassing for us/you when someone does something nice or kind for us/you?

- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading (if you haven’t already prayed)
- Read text (I often let people read it over silently and then have it read aloud).

Overview observation question: What prominent, repeated words did you notice?

first section—verses 1-5:

O What do we learn about the context?

Note on Passover: Jewish commemoration of Exodus events (God passing over the first-born), which was part of the liberation story. A high, holy day.

O What does the Gospel writer, John, want us to understand that “Jesus knew”?

I What difference do you think that knowledge made?

A How does your “inner sense of security” affect your behavior?

A What difference can it make when you are aware that you are a “loved child of God”? (with not only growing internal security but also eternal security ☺)

John is very deliberate in describing the specific actions that Jesus undertakes.

O What are the various phrases/specific actions? (reread those out loud)

I Why do you think John is so detailed in the description?

I How do you think the disciples felt having their feet washed by Jesus?
Why?

Note on foot-washing: a form of hospitality that ceremonial and also practical, providing relief from the dusty, dry conditions. Usually provided by the lowest of servants in the host’s household. An example of humble service.

second section—verses 6-11—BEWARE, this section could easily consume all your time. It is an important element in the account because of the theological/salvific dimension. But, press on because it is not the prime focus of our study.

O What are Peter’s several reactions to the prospect of having Jesus wash his feet?

- I Which of Peter's responses do you think are regrettable? Why?
- I Which of his responses are commendable/good? Why?

I Even though the disciples probably didn't understand Jesus' comments in verse 10 about the benefit of being washing and cleansed, what eventually would they learn about the significance?

Note on "later" (v. 7)—foreshadows the benefits of the atonement, when we are forgiven and freed from sin (cleansed and washed).

third section—verses 12-17

- O What does Jesus clarify about his role as Teacher? Role of Lord?
Note on v. 16/not greater—eliminates any claim that disciples were more important than Lord.
- O What expectations does Jesus have for his disciples?
*Note—definition of love by Thomas Oord & Michael Lodahl in Relational Holiness
To love is to act intentionally, in response to God and others, to promote well-being.*

**A What are some of the ways that we can “wash one another’s feet?
How can we effectively love and serve one another this year?
What kind of an attitude toward one another will be need?**