FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 3 · GRADES 4-6

Student Lesson

Jesus Shows Me How to Love: Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)

Bible reading: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Roads in Israel were dusty, and people wore open sandals. Washing a guest's feet was good manners, and it was usually done by the lowest servant in the house (compare 1 Samuel 25:41; Luke 7:44).

On the night before His death, Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples in an upper room. Jesus knew "that His hour had come" and He "loved them to the end" (John 13:1). Yet the disciples argued about who would be the greatest (Luke 22:24). One of them, Judas, had already decided to betray Jesus (John 13:2).

Jesus did not lecture them. He rose from supper, laid aside His garments, tied a towel around Himself, poured water into a basin, and began washing their feet (John 13:4-5). The Teacher and Lord took the servant's place. He even washed the feet of Judas.

Peter objected: "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (John 13:8). Peter meant to show respect, but he was refusing what the Lord wanted. When he understood, he wanted to be washed all over (John 13:9).

Then Jesus explained: "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" (John 13:14-15). He added, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (John 13:17).

Jesus also gave a new commandment: "that you love one another; as I have loved you" (John 13:34). The world will know we are His disciples by our love (John 13:35). Greatness in Jesus' kingdom is measured by service (Luke 22:26-27; Mark 10:45).

> "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."
> **John 13:15 (NKJV)**

Four points to remember

- Jesus loved His disciples "to the end" (John 13:1), even the one who would betray Him.
- The Lord and Teacher took the lowest servant's job and washed dirty feet (John 13:4-5).
- Jesus gave us an example of humble, loving service to follow (John 13:14-15).
- People will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35).

Think it through

1. What were the disciples arguing about that night (Luke 22:24)?

2. Why did Peter refuse at first? What changed his mind?
3. Jesus washed Judas' feet. What does that teach about loving people who hurt us?
4. What does it mean to be "great" in Jesus' kingdom (Mark 10:45)?

Following Jesus this week: I will serve others by