

I N

T H E

U P P E R

R O O M



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Verses 16-17 What two motivations does Jesus give for us to serve others in this way?
How does this impact you to be increasingly servant-hearted?

Verse 19 Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he is going to be betrayed?

HUMILITY HIGHLIGHTED

“Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call ‘humble’ nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all. If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a biggish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”

C.S. Lewis

Humility can be defined as the absence of pride. We cannot become more humble by focusing on humility, as it becomes a source of pride when we believe we have achieved it. C.S. Lewis describes humility (see above quote) not as thinking less of ourselves, but as thinking of ourselves less.

Humility increases when we are willing to be humbled by God, circumstances and others. How is humility achieved in the following ways? Give examples.

- We are humbled when we challenge our motives for the things we do. For example, we may see that our actions are geared to receive favorable opinion from others.
- We are humbled when we make the majority of our choices based on pleasing people.
- We are humbled when we evaluate our response when we are slighted, overlooked, or underappreciated.

TRUE HUMILITY //////////////////////////////////////

How does true humility produce godliness, contentment and security?

A FINAL THOUGHT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' FOOT WASHING //////////////////////////////////////

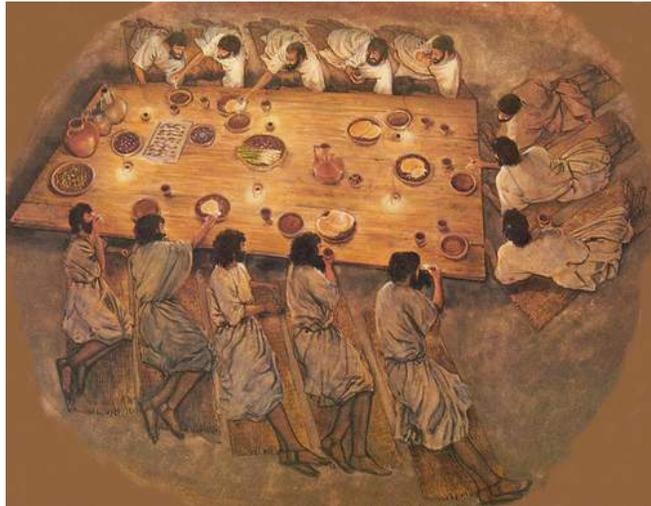
Jesus washing the feet of the disciples has significance in three ways:

1. For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and His servanthood.
2. For the disciples, the washing of their feet was in direct contrast to their heart attitudes at that time (read Luke 22:24).
3. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ.

GETTING PERSONAL //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus laid down His power for the sake of His disciples. Think about your "power" in the various spheres of your life. What would it look like for you to lay that power down in loving service of others this week?

A NEW COMMANDMENT
John 13:21-38
For the Week of October 13, 2019



<https://www.preceptaustin.org/luke-22-commentary>

Although people sat for everyday meals, reclining at the table was reserved for special occasions. For the Passover dinner, the men reclined on large floor pillows or backless couches. They leaned on their left elbows, eating with one hand. The seats of honor were on either side of the host. Since John was sitting to the right of Jesus, he could lean his head back against Jesus' chest.

STARTUP //////////////////////////////////////

Have you ever been completely “blindsided” by the bad actions of a person whom you thought to be incapable of doing the things they did? Why were you so surprised? What did this tell you about people in general and yourself?

TROUBLED //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:21-22

The verses describe Jesus' inner state as “troubled.” It is the same Greek word used in the following verses (go ahead and look up): John 11:3; 12:27; 14:1, 27. It means “agitated” by deep distress or sometimes anger.

What does this say about Jesus' relationship with Judas?

How did the Lord help you when you were distressed as Jesus was about another person in your life? Has the Lord ever used you to help others who are distressed? Share in your group.

PRAY FOR THIS //////////////////////////////////////

Do you love other Christians as Jesus has loved you? Spend a moment praying for those people who are difficult to love as Jesus does. Pray that God would help you to love them and give you an opportunity to love them in practical deeds of care and service. Pray that, as a church, we at RiverLakes would also be those who use the Lord's power to serve and to love one another.

PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 14:13-14

What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? Does it result always in God granting what is asked for? Why or why not?

Read 1 John 5:13-15

What condition is attached to this promise? What other condition did he give in 1 John 3:22?

To ask God according to His will means that we should ask according to what the Bible teaches about God's will for His people (sometimes called God's "revealed will"). If Christians are praying in accordance with what pleases God as found in the teaching of Scripture, they are praying according to His will (see Matthew 6:10).

Praying according to God's will include the need to:

Pray in faith (Matthew 21:22; James 1:6)

Pray with patience (Luke 18:1-8)

Pray in obedience (1 Peter 3:12)

Pray in submission to God's greater wisdom (Romans 8:28)

After reading these passages, does this impact how you currently pray and specifically, your prayer requests? How?

“LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED” //////////////////////////////////////

In verse 27 Jesus says for the second time, “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (see also verse 1). How would you summarize the reasons He has given His disciples to not be troubled?

Why do we worry if we fully trust the Lord and have committed our lives to Him (see Philippians 4:6)? How would your life look if you fully implemented 4:6? What next step can you take now to decrease your worry?

OVERCOMING FEAR //////////////////////////////////////

Reread John 14:25-31

Jesus’ announcement of His departure sent the disciples into an emotional meltdown. They could not think of their future without Jesus, so the prospect of going on alone was terrifying. These eleven men needed courage, just as we do today. Jesus gives these men three truths, which are applicable today in overcoming fear of any kind.

Truth #1: We may be inadequate, but the Holy Spirit will make us competent and courageous (verses 25-26). How has the Holy Spirit done this in your life? Share in your group.

Truth #2: We may be fearful, but the peace of Jesus Christ is ours for the taking (verse 27). We tend to think of peace as the absence of trouble, but the peace Jesus Christ gives us peace even in the middle of a storm. How does having a right relationship with the Lord provide you with peace? How have you experienced the peace that only the Lord can provide in the midst of a storm? Share with your group.

Truth #3: When circumstances are difficult, courage is found in obedience (verses 28-31). How does obedience to the Lord provide courage?

TRUST VS. CONFIDENCE //////////////////////////////////////

The disciples were equipped by our Lord but fear threatened to make them powerless. Why? It’s the same reason as today: lack of confidence in the truth of His words. The disciples trusted in Christ, but they lacked confidence. What’s the difference?

Trust = the decision to accept as truth the words of Jesus and to make them the basis of all future decisions.

Confidence = the growing feeling of peace as we apply the words of Christ and see them confirmed over and over again.

Do you fully trust in Jesus? Assuming your answer is yes, how is your confidence in the truth of His words? Has your confidence grown as you have matured in your walk with the Lord? Share with your group.

EXPLORE MORE //////////////////////////////////////

The passage in verses 15-31, along with others in John, raises questions about the nature of the Trinity and how the Father and the Son relate to one another. What do these verses reveal about the relationship of the Father and the Son?

John 1:1-2

John 5:19-20

John 6:38

John 10:30

John 14:11

John 14:28, 31

How does this move you to worship the triune God more deeply?

I AM THE VINE
John 15:1-17
For the Week of November 3, 2019

THE SETUP //////////////////////////////////////



In this passage, Jesus gives the disciples God's purpose in saving them: He wants them to bear much fruit. Jesus pictures Himself as the true vine, the Father as the vinedresser, and the disciples as the branches. A man plants a vineyard for a different reason than he plants a flower garden. We plant flower gardens so that we can enjoy the beautiful flowers. If you plant a vineyard, your purpose is to harvest a crop of grapes. Your goal is that your vineyard bears a lot of fruit. So, the big point is:

Christ's true followers abide in Him as branches
in the true vine and so bear much fruit.

TALKABOUT //////////////////////////////////////

What is the key to being fruitful at work? What about in the Christian life?

INVESTIGATE //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 15:1-17

What is meant by each of the elements (vine, vinedresser, branches, and fruit) in this metaphor?

THE VINE //////////////////////////////////////

Besides a present vine which is our Lord Jesus Christ, there are past and future vines found in Scripture. What does each represent?

Past (Psalm 80:8-19; Isaiah 5:1-7)

Future (Revelation 14:14-20)

THE VINEDRESSER //////////////////////////////////////

The vinedresser prunes the branches in two ways: he cuts away dead wood that can breed disease and insects, and he cuts away living tissue so that the life of the vine will not be so bad that the quality of the crop will be jeopardized. Why is the pruning process so important in a believer's life? How does God love us by pruning us, even when this can cause distress?

THE BRANCHES //////////////////////////////////////

Verse 5 gives us the term "abide," which means to stay with, be joined to, and spend time with someone. It's more than a casual relationship or a nodding acquaintance; it's an ongoing, deepening friendship. Remaining in Jesus is not an automatic act. We have to work at the relationship. Look at each discipline below. How does each discipline help a believer to "abide" in Him?

Praying

Reading and studying the Bible

Worshipping God alone and with other believers

Being accountable to at least one other believer

SERVING OTHERS //////////////////////////////////////

What is your self-assessment of each of the above disciplines in your life?

Which discipline(s) need improvement in your life? What next step(s) can you take?

THE FRUIT //////////////////////////////////////

What does Jesus say is the key to being fruitful as a Christian?

Verse 2

Verses 4-5

Verses 7-8

Verses 9-11

Verse 16

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT //////////////////////////////////////

Several different types of spiritual fruit are named in the Bible. Check out the following passages and identify the type of fruit mentioned in each passage:

Romans 1:13

John 4:35-38

Romans 6:22

Romans 15:28

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 1:10

Has your life exhibited fruit as mentioned in the above passages? How? When has fruitfulness come in your life? Was it during a quiet period or a time of trials and tribulations? What life lesson(s) have you realized from this?

CONSIDER AND RESPOND //////////////////////////////////////

What are some ways we can participate in the Holy Spirit's transformation process in our lives?

How can you be a vessel for the Spirit to work in the life of non-believers?

Share a time you have been convicted of sin and how God used that to transform your thinking and glorify Him.

PRAYER //////////////////////////////////////

Pray that we would remember the significance of the promise of the presence of the Holy Spirit with us and that we would rely on the power of the Holy Spirit daily.

Pray that the Spirit would transform our minds and hearts into the likeness of Christ.

Pray that the Spirit would convict us of sin and that our lives would glorify God.

I Have Overcome The World
John 16:16-33
For the Week of November 24, 2019

OVERVIEW //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus' teaching shifts from the Spirit's future work to what the disciples' immediate future would hold. He uses these last opportunities with the disciples to teach and encourage them knowing persecution, injustice, anguish and His death lie ahead.



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Read John 16:16-33

Why were the disciples confused by the phrase “a little while?” What does Jesus say is going to happen soon? What does he mean by this?

In John 16:24 Jesus tells the disciples that they have not appealed to the Father in Jesus' name before. As Old Testament believers, they had grounded their petitions on God's promises in the Old Testament. What does Jesus teach the disciples about the significance of asking “in my name” (Verse 25. Read also John 14:13–14; 15:16; 16:24, 26)?

The disciples were asking each other questions, yet they had the one who could answer all their questions. However, Jesus didn't clarify their questions. Why did He speak figuratively?

DICTIONARY

Speaking Figuratively (v. 25): *using imagery and metaphors that are not to be taken literally.*

What does Jesus tell the disciples about a time coming when He will speak plainly?

Jesus gave his disciples three promises to encourage them that the shadow of the cross lie ahead.

What did He promise?

In John 16:19-24 _____

In John 16:25-28 _____

In John 16:31-33 _____

The breadth and depth of what Jesus was teaching the disciples would not come into full focus until He had departed. They would not fully understand joy until they experienced the loss of Jesus and then experienced His resurrection. They would not fully understand love until they experienced the work on the cross and they had direct access to the Father. They would not truly understand peace until they understood what it meant that Christ had overcome the world!

REFLECT AND RESPOND //////////////////////////////////////

In what ways does your life reflect joy, love and peace in the midst of life's difficulties?

In the Upper Room, Jesus mentioned impending sorrow and persecution several times. However this would not be the end of His relationship with the disciples. He gave them clarity with their issue of sorrow by explaining joy. He addressed their issue with access by explaining they would now have access to the Father and He addressed their issue with separation in verses 31-33. Which of these issues do you struggle with the most?

Which of these promises are easiest for you to cling to when your circumstances are difficult?

In what ways does Jesus's resurrection give you joy and peace?

PRAY FOR THIS //////////////////////////////////////

Pray for joy in the midst of sorrow that attracts others to the Gospel.

Pray for a deepening love and dependency on the Father.

Pray for those in your life that need God's peace.

