

The Basin and the Towel

John 13:1-17

Mark 14:12-16

If you had time with those closest to you, just hours before your death, what would you say and do?

I. The Context (vs. 1-3)

Just before the Passover

The hour had come

John 12:23-24; 32

He loved them to the end (eis telos)

Jesus knew 3 things – His power, His origin, His destination

**Instead of basking in the glow of power and authority,
Jesus empties Himself and takes on the form of a
servant.**

Philippians 2:6-7

II. The Action (vs. 4-5)

A. A common act –

B. A menial act –

C. A demeaning act –

D. An act with social implications –

III. The Reaction (vs. 6-7)

A. Peter's response: “no, you shall never wash my feet”

1) Jesus wanted to be the servant in this story.

Mark 10:45

2) The disciples were not willing to do it

Luke 22:24-27

B. Jesus' response: “you do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand”

IV. The Symbol (vs. 8-11)

The water washing away the dirt of the feet is meant to be a symbol of the blood of Christ washing away the dirt of sin.

The greatest washing of all time took place when Christ died on the cross

V. The Standard (vs. 12-17)

In washing the disciple's feet, Jesus was showing them a standard of humble service.

A. The Truth (vs. 12-13)

The revered and exalted Messiah assumed the role of the despised servant for the good of others.

B. The Command (vs. 14-16)

I have done it for you – do it for one another.

C. The Promise (vs. 17)

You will receive a blessing if you do it

Followers of Jesus distinguish themselves through humble acts of service to those who don't expect it and are unable to repay it.