

John 13a

1 In John 7:20 and 8:30 the enemies of Jesus could not seize Him because His hour had not yet come. Now the time had come. The last part of the verse can be translated either – he showed them the full extent of his love OR he loved them to the end. The full extent of His love is more than this chapter. It would include what was meant by “His time had come”.

2 The Passover meal was being served. The devil prompted Judas to betray Jesus. *Ballo eis kardia* (tossed or poured into his heart or mind). (Acts 5:3) We can get mental or emotional input from the evil one, (2Corinthians 8:16) or God. It is up to us to discern the source of a thought or feeling. The devil didn't know what a mistake he was and is making. This shows the devil does not know the future details as God does. See verse 27.

3 Jesus knew the Father had put all things under His power and that He came from and was returning to God. I often wonder if this realization came gradually or was always there. At 12 years of age He understood God was His Father, but when did the full revelation of all He was and what He would do come?
John 17:2; Matthew 28:18

4-5 He knows everything is in His hands so He serves. Only the person that is secure in His position with God can go low enough to serve and not worry about his place in the pecking order. Luke tells us that the disciples had been arguing again about who would have the highest positions in the coming Kingdom (Luke 22:24). Jesus has told them that the Kingdom does not operate that way. They didn't get His words before so He is going to demonstrate. Usually disciples ministered to the physical needs of their teacher. Jesus completely broke the mold and taught that reality is the other way around. The greatest is the servant. They had come in wondering who was going to be chosen for the low position of washing feet. Everyone was wondering who is on the bottom. Jesus says, “ME!” Because in the Kingdom down is up. The humble are exalted.

6-10a Peter protested. John the Baptist said he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandal. How much more would any one not be worthy of Him washing their feet? When people were invited to a feast, they would bathe and put on a clean robe. Then they only needed their feet washed from the journey to where the feast was. There may be a picture of baptism in this story. The washing of the feet allowed someone inclusion into the home. If we come with salvation, and come to the door of the house of the family of God, we are clean, but we need that washing before we enter. We need to stand the test of confession that not only includes us but washes. It is not a requirement for salvation, but for entering into the fellowship of believers, we must make a stand.

10b-11 Imagine, all authority is in Jesus' hands. Jesus knew from the beginning that Judas was the one, yet He let him carry the purse, live with them for three years, and finally washed his feet. Some scholars think Judas was upset at Jesus' refusal to use force, and that by betraying Him, he would make Jesus fight to set up His kingdom. How could Judas have comprehended that the way to establish the kingdom was through the Roman cross? If you were in Jesus' shoes, would you have washed Judas' feet. If you say, "NO!" realize your thoughts need to be conformed to those of Jesus.

12-15 Do you understand what He did? He showed us what real greatness is, serving God through serving our fellow man at God's direction. Galatians 5:13b Then Jesus said to follow His example. How could they fight for position after that!

16-17 If Jesus, the Master, the Son of Man takes the lowest place, what is expected of His followers? Jesus seemed to think they finally got it, but there is one more challenge. Take what you know and DO IT! We can know and not do. We have to take the revelation of truth and put it into practice in our lives or we just have an untried intellectual idea. Genesis 6:22; Exodus 40:16; Psalm 19:11; Matthew 7:24; James 1:25

18 -19 Jesus quotes Psalm 41:9 in part. He leaves out, "My own familiar friend who I trusted..." To eat bread together was sign of friendship and peace. Judas didn't worry about tradition or law. There is no hint of anger in Jesus at this betrayal of one so close, just a broken heart. Jesus is preparing them for what is to come. Don't they already believe? Not fully! When the signs come to pass then they will know. He was also preparing their hearts for the chaos of that coming scene. If they could remember that it was not a surprise to Jesus, but a part of a larger plan, it would help them through those coming days. Jesus was not being killed but choosing to die for them. Does Jesus have you days planned? Do you know things are not an accident, even when they look disastrous?

20 What an honor to represent Almighty God! What concern we should have that we represent Him rightly! Matthew 10:40-42; 1Thessalonians 4:8