

## **John 13:1 - 16**

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~ Four major discourses are presented by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God. We have carefully examined three of those discourses thus far on safari. The so-called Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters five, six and seven is the first discourse. Matthew chapter thirteen brought us the second discourse of the Mystery Parables. Third, Matthew chapters twenty-four and twenty-five contain the Olivet Discourse. A proper thinking in light of the knowledge of grace in our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ regarding each of these discourses is critical to comprehending the sound doctrine of the apostles and prophecy correctly. If you don't take the time to learn and understand this completely, you will not understand Holy Writ - and you will never have fellowship with our Father in Heaven - until you do.

Each of these discourses consist of Jesus own words. Our Spiritual Safari attached a special significance to each of those series of reports from those chapters – and they were significant, but now we have come to the fourth discourse - the Upper Room discourse. This discourse is five chapters long. It has a special meaning for the believer – in no uncertain terms – and it is more relevant to our lives today than any other information God has ever given to us in His Word or out. We will look upon Jesus as He takes His apostles to the upper room and reveals some brand new deep, alarming, arresting and borderline traumatizing truth's to them. I hope you will find many fresh and vibrant perspectives in our next several reports. I also hope we will find them difficult to look upon; for our own good. Either way, some people will just not be able to receive these messages at this time. There is really nothing quite like this upcoming section of Scripture.

So, thirteen men are coming into this room after traveling oriental highways all day - and they need to get washed up. Travel in that day made the feet quite unpleasant, you might imagine. Jesus immediately announces He is going to wash their feet. Physical foot washing is a difficult and dirty job. Notice that Jesus used water to wash them - not blood. That speaks of the Word of God washing us. We hear many people talk about 'power in the blood' and how we all must 'come to some fountain' that's

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filled with blood to wash and all that; well, may I say, to speak of the blood of Christ like that is to completely dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ and do a disservice to the Word of God.

The Lord Jesus Christ certainly does cleanse us from all unrighteousness; but what we need to remember is that we are WASHED with the water - CLEANSED continually by the blood. By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are set apart. What this means is that we come to Christ ONCE and we are cleansed from all unrighteousness by His blood; but it is a continual, eternal cleansing. That blood gives us a standing before a Holy God; and that standing is eternal. After that, the spiritual feet of the believer are washed daily by the water of the Word as we travel along the dusty and dirty pilgrim pathways in this world. Many people haven't had a foot washing in decades. Their skin is rotting off, spiritually speaking – and – as a result, their walk for and with God is non-existent. Let's call them the lame, shall we? They just sit on the side of the highway and do nothing but beg. This is so important to see. This is the water that washed those mud-cakes of the blind man's eyes, too, you understand.

In the last chapter, Jesus had His feet anointed - not washed - but, in this chapter, Jesus is the one doing the washing. Our spiritual feet get spiritually dirty as we walk through this world, and they must be washed. That is done by the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. Christ's feet were anointed, you may recall – but not washed. The feet of the disciples had to be washed – not His – and that makes all the difference in the world. Jesus passed through this sinful world, and He contracted no defilement. Supernatural? – you bet it is. This all speaks to the walk of an individual, by the way. Here, when we see the walk of the Lord Jesus - His feet are anointed with that wonderfully pungent spikenard; and that speaks of His sweet savor unto God. That should all be simply remarkable to you, friends....

*1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

*2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;*

~ There has been controversy about which supper this is - because it is not the Lord's Supper. There are two things missing from the other Gospels that John records: the transfiguration and the Passover Supper. This is the Passover supper. The reason these two very important events are not accounted for is because God omitted them, and He did so because too many people are stuck in a ritualistic religion. The danger with rituals is that they can easily become more important than the similarities they are designed to represent. Anytime the emphasis is not placed upon the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God you have a losing religion, friends. It just doesn't happen to work any other way. Someone questions me and says, 'you sure sound sure and you sound as if you are speaking for God.' That's right, my beloved; I am glad you're reading carefully.

When verse one says "...when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world..." - "this world" means our civilization as we know it. We are in complete rebellion against God and the world is as anti-God as it can get tonight. This is a world that has completely rejected the Christ of Holy Writ. This also means Jesus washed the disciple's feet because He knew the time was quickly coming that He would depart out of this world. That means He was departing out of this world and unto the Father. That is critical to see, because the ministry of Jesus washing the feet of His own continues after He returns to Heaven. This means Christ assumes the place of the servant to us. We had all better be super careful with our theology here, friends – take that as a friendly warning. Some people like to think Christ has relinquished that servitude status. Well, Jesus identifies Himself with His people and He still washed the feet of His disciples; otherwise, they have no part with Him - you may be absolutely sure.

All of this was done because Jesus loved them; and Jesus loves them through to the end. Christ died down here to save us, but He lives in Heaven to keep us saved. Well, verse one and two tell us that, in the middle of the celebration of the Passover supper, the devil himself set in their

midst the one to betray Jesus. We have an ever-present uninvited guest in this so-called safari, too, friends - and his name is Satan. Thirteen men went into the upper room, but we have one more now. The presence of Satan is the only reason washing the disciples feet took place. See, Satan gets involved in all kinds of church work and activities. Christians get spiritually dirty every day, and Jesus must wash us in order for us to have fellowship with Him....

*3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*

*4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.*

*5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.*

~ Notice the language in verse four is the same language used in Leviticus. Jesus 'laid aside' His garments, as Aaron the high priest laid his aside as he washed the other priests. Also, you may recall Exodus chapter twenty-one where a law regarding a Hebrew servant is found. Of course, in the seventh Sabbatic year, the servant could simply go free; but if he had a wife and children, then he could not take them with him. However, if the servant wanted to stay with his family, then the ear was bore through with an aul – and that is translated later as "crucified."

Jesus came to this earth and identified Himself with us in our humanity. He was made in the likeness and character of a servant. And Jesus did this because He loves us, and His death was His way of providing salvation to us. See, we are up against a holy God that we could simply never attain to. I hope that is a wonderful and meaningful revelation to you. God gives us these mind-shattering truths because He wants us to have fellowship with Him and He wants that fellowship to mean something in our physical, mundane, every day, minute-by-minute lives. We must recognize our position as servants of the True and Living God. We are told that one day we will sit down at a banquet with Him, and He is going to serve us. That's

going to be a little uncomfortable for me, as far as I can determine. Well, Jesus is also going to cleanse His disciples – those who are His own....

*6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?*

*7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know in the hereafter.*

~ Some have attempted to relegate this to a mere example of humility. Well, I think we have more than that. Others say, “.... this is an example for us.” They cite verse fourteen from this chapter – and some churches even literally practice foot washing. I see nothing wrong with that, because there is a huge spiritual meaning here that we can easily overlook, but I see a whole lot wrong with it when it isn't performed with the Spirit of God teaching this passage properly, correctly and completely. In fact, without that teaching in tandem with the sacrament, I see the ritual as blasphemous.....

*8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.*

~ When Jesus says, “.... no part with Me...” - that means, “you’ll have no fellowship with Me!” Jesus says He washes us today “with the Word which I have spoken unto you.” Psalm one hundred nineteen verse nine clarifies this succinctly. Do not make the mistake of playing this truth down or mishandling it, my Christian friend. God says there will be no fellowship with Him outside of the Word of God. Christ so loved the church that He gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it and wash it by the water of the Word of God. If we confess our sins, then He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Some emphasize this too lightly, and some take it to a disservice level of the Word of God; don’t get me wrong, I don’t think we can over-emphasize the blood of Christ IF it’s emphasized properly, correctly and completely. When mishandled, the cause of Christ suffers, and the Gospel is not furthered. Feet speak to our spiritual walk; and when

we are constantly disobedient, we are not walking in His ways. That's called unconfessed sins. That's the equivalent of telling Jesus He won't be washing your feet....

*9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*

*10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.*

*11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

*12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?*

~ Well, they didn't know, and if it were just a lesson in humility I think even the disciples would have understood it – but they don't. If Jesus were only talking about physical foot washing, then one of the apostles would have stood up and answered Jesus. What we have is so – so much more than that. If you know these things, then happy are ye - if ye do them. That's a pretty big IF for most of us. Do you want joy in your life? Well, I don't care how good you think you are; you better find the time today for some confession. If you can't think of anything to confess, then just guess – you'll likely be correct the very first time. Confess your disobedience. Confess the coldness, indifference and wrongful thoughts, attitudes and actions. Confess how you knew to do good but decided not to do it. Confess how you have failed esteeming others better than yourself and failed at considering the welfare of others above your own. We can all confess those things at any time - and we all have a whole lot to confess at all times, really. If you say you don't, then you lie, and the truth is not in you. If that is the case, friends - then you don't have fellowship with our Father in Heaven. See how that works? ~

*13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.*

*14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*

~ We wash one another's feet by restoring them into fellowship with Christ - not by beating them over the head spiritually. Instead of criticizing, we should reach out and offer to help them. My, how guilty we all are of neglecting these things today. However, restoring a brother or sister can also be like setting a broken bone – and if a dog has a broken leg it will bite if you touch it – even though you are trying to help; that's a tremendous principle that is also wrapped up in this foot washing business. You will get kicked washing feet, my beloved. Count on it. We all need our feet washed today. Christ is in Heaven girded with the linen cloth of the Great High Priest; and if He doesn't wash your feet, you have no part with Him....

*15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

*16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him ~*

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