

# Impactful Lessons...

## Two Things We Will Learn in This Series...

1. You can impress people at a distance. But you can impact them from up close. And the closer you are to them, the greater and more permanent the impact.
2. Although we learn in large groups, the changes that we would like to make in our lives are usually made because of relationships.

## The Setting of the Story

*"It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. <sup>2</sup>The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God..."*

- John 13:1-3

Jesus has now hidden Himself from the crowds and spends His last hours with His closest friends — the disciples.

It was just before Passover. Jesus had only one day to live. *About whom would you be thinking? This story is about selflessness.*

*"You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come."*

- John 7:8

*"Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"*

- John 12:23

The theme and key thought changes with chapter 13. The word "love" is used 31 times in the next five chapters. It was only used six times in the first 12 chapters.

Jesus has continually loved His disciples but now He shows His love to the very end (or full extent).

The meal was being served. This was the Passover meal that all of Israel would eat together the next evening.

The devil was already working in Judas towards betrayal. When we are living in sin, we are susceptible for greater evil.

*"But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, . . . <sup>6</sup>He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."*

- John 12:4,6

But, Jesus was God; He was from God; He had all authority; and He was returning to His rightful place in heaven with God.

## The Lesson on Humility, Taught by Example

<sup>4</sup>"...so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' <sup>8</sup>'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' <sup>9</sup>'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' <sup>11</sup>For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not everyone was clean."

- John 13:4-11

Washing of feet was done only by the lowest of servants.

*(Compare this to verse 3 and connect the word "so.")*

The word for "took off" (*tithemi*) is a word connected to Jesus "laying down" His life and the word for "putting on" (*lambano*) in verse 12 is a direct reference to the resurrection.

The disciples were too concerned with their self-importance, so Jesus modeled to them the act of a servant.

*"Also, a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest."* Lk 22:24

Simon Peter was appalled at this and refused but Jesus' answer shows the importance of being washed.

*"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

- 1 Cor. 6:11

Simon Peter then jumps to the opposite extreme because he had not been focused on Jesus. Jesus told him that he would understand later.

Jesus teaches an amazing lesson. Once you have been bathed, you never need another bath (spiritually speaking). What you need is a daily "feet washing" or touch-up.

(Forever forgiveness vs. Fellowship forgiveness)

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness."*

- 1 John 1:9

*"**Forgive us our debts**, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

- Matthew 6:12

Jesus then explained that Judas Iscariot was not a believer.

*"And you are clean, though **not every one of you**." <sup>11</sup>For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not everyone was clean."*

- John 13:10,11

## Lessons

1. The best lessons are taught by example and explained in small groups.
2. Will you humble yourself to learn those lessons and place yourself in a relationship with others for the best opportunities for growth?

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