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<sup>[3]</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God, and was going back to God, <sup>[4]</sup> rose from supper, and laid aside His garments; and having taken a towel, girded Himself. <sup>[5]</sup> Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. <sup>[6]</sup> And so He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

[John 13:3-6]

Let me make sure you understand the timing of what took place here in John 13. When the text says here in John 13:3 that,

*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God, and was going back to God,*

It is reminding you that on this night Jesus was eating the last Passover meal He would eat on this earth before He willingly gave Himself to be crucified for your and my sins.

I can only imagine the silent thoughts which went through the minds of Jesus disciples as He, in John 13:4,

*"rose from [the] supper [table], and laid aside His garments; and having taken a towel, girded Himself".*

Most likely when Jesus rose up from the table, they thought nothing of it. However, when Jesus laid His garments aside, they most likely began to ask themselves, "Why is He doing that?" And then when Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around His waist their curiosity peaked.

Then, when in John 13:5, Jesus having poured water into the basin began to wash their feet; surely, they silently wondered why Jesus their Master was doing this servants task. However, it was not until Jesus came to Peter that Peter spoke up and asked, "*Lord, do You wash my feet?*" [John 13:6]! Perhaps Peter asked this question out of the guilt that he and the other disciples felt when they realized that Jesus was doing for them what they should have done for Jesus and the other disciples.

Little did they realize that they were on the eve of the greatest washing of all. That is the washing away of their sins, and your and my sins which Jesus would give through His selfless suffering and death on the Cross [Acts 22:16]!

Now listen to how Jesus answered Peter's question in John 13:7 where,

<sup>[7]</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "*What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand after these things.*"

Peter completely missed the point of what Jesus had said to him as is witnessed in John 13:8(a) where,

<sup>[8(a)]</sup> Peter said to [Jesus], "*Never will You wash my feet!*"

Then in John 13:8(b),

<sup>[8(b)]</sup> Jesus answered [Peter], "*If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.*"

I suggest to you that when Jesus said this He was not referring to washing Peter's feet. Rather, the reference is to the washing away of Peter's sins and the sins of the world!

When Jesus had said "*If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me*", Peter responded in John 13:9,

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<sup>[9]</sup> ... "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

Having washed all of the disciples feet, including Judas', in John 13:12, Jesus, "having, taken His garments, and having reclined at the table again, He asked them,"

*"Do you know what I have done to you?"*

Please listen closely to what Jesus says next in John 13:13-14 where He teaches you and me saying,

<sup>[13]</sup> "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. <sup>[14]</sup> **IF** I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

When Jesus said "you also ought to wash one another's feet" He is speaking metaphorically. You learn this is so from John 13:15-17 where Jesus explains,

<sup>[15]</sup> "For I GAVE YOU AN EXAMPLE that you also SHOULD DO AS I DID FOR YOU. <sup>[16]</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent them. <sup>[17]</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

What are the "these things" which will bring you blessings "if you do them"? To answer this question first listen to Luke 12:37 where you hear Jesus say,

<sup>[37]</sup> "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that He will gird Himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them."

Since Jesus said in John 13:15 that you and I should do just as He did for us; and since Luke 12:37 teaches the master will serve the slave, does this not mean we, as did Jesus, should SELFLESSLY SERVE one another? Romans 7:6 then adds that you are to "SERVE in NEWNESS of the SPIRIT and not in oldness of the letter". To this Galatians 5:14 teaches you that you are to "SERVE one another".

Galatians 6:2 then teaches you that to "fulfill the law of Christ" you are to "bear one another's burdens". Please understand, that in this bearing one another's burdens, Galatians 6:9 teaches you that "in doing good", you are "not [to] lose heart", "for in due time [you] will reap if [you] do not grow weary". Then Galatians 6:10 instructs you that "while [you] have opportunity", you are to "do good to all [people], ESPECIALLY to those who are of the household of the faith."

Please join with me in prayer.

Father, I present to You an offering of thanksgiving today for teaching us that we are to selflessly serve others in the same way that the Lord Jesus selflessly served us! And this, not just in the washing of feet when no one else did; but in His going to the Cross that our sins might be washed away eternally. I pray and ask that you teach us to serve one another that we might fulfill the law of Christ. Open our eyes to the needs of others around us that we may serve them; especially those of the household of faith! I now ask for You to do this for us through the authority of the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN ME THE EXAMPLE OF HOW TO SELFLESSLY SERVE! – tom!*