

## Jesus - No Task too low, No person beyond His love

- Think about your home life, and/or your work life... **Is there any job/task/chore that you would be unwilling to do?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Think about the people you come in contact with... **Is there anyone you would be unwilling to serve?** \_\_\_\_\_
- Think about any broken relationships in your life... **Is there anyone you would not be willing to forgive?** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be a follower of Jesus? Are you/am I really sure about that?

Our GFF friends meet together for fellowship, food, a craft, & worship every Thursday night. Our text today speaks of Jesus meeting together with His friends as well for those same reasons on a Thursday night - **Maundy Thursday**

They were celebrating the Passover feast! This particular Passover meal took place the night before Jesus was arrested, stood trial, & was crucified!

**Jesus knew the importance of this night, but His disciples did not!** He knew that this would be their last night together before everything would change!

Knowing this, Jesus prepared one last lesson for all of them, one that would stick with them for the rest of their lives!

**He would teach them "the way"!** That which would differentiate His (Jesus') followers, from the rest of the world!

"Followers of The Way" would be what they would be known as until 42 AD when the term "Christian" was first used in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

What was this "way" that Jesus showed His disciples that Thursday night, that led to a way of life that His followers would be known for even today?

Read **John 13:1-17**

When Jesus knew that his hour of departure had come, John's gospel says, **"he loved them to the end"**, which means **He loved them to the fullest extent!**

John then shares some important/interesting details prior to revealing this full extent of Jesus' love for His disciples.

- **Vs. 2 – "During supper, when the devil had already put it in the heart of**

**Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him..." (vs. 11) Jesus already knew what Judas was going to do before he did it!**

Why is that significant? Because Jesus was about to show the full extent of his love, & He willing chose to include Judas in that when He knew that he would betray Him!

- **Vs. 3 – Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God...** Jesus didn't owe anyone anything! **Every human being owes Jesus everything,** & yet Jesus uses His power/status as an opportunity to serve

I learned a very important lesson from my predecessor when he was questioned about the Senior Pastor plunging toilets – *"I don't have to do everything as the pastor here, but I do need to be willing to do anything!"*

That was put to the test when I got a phone call saying that the sewer line at the church had backed up & was flooding into the boiler & furnace rooms! **It was Don's statement & Jesus' example that changed my perspective!**

The next day someone made this comment to me, *"The life of a pastor"* as they saw me sitting at the sewer cleanout operating the snake while picking songs from my worship binder for the following Sunday services!

That was not something I thought I was signing up for as a pastor, but **that is exactly what we all signed up for when we decided to follow Jesus!**

Jesus was willing to do the job reserved for the lowliest of servants/slaves, washing the feet of others – even the feet of those who would betray him, deny him, and scatter from him in his most difficult hour!

- **There was/is nothing Jesus is unwilling to do to love us to the fullest!**
- **There was/is no one who Jesus would be unwilling to serve in such ways** If He did it for Judas, & for Peter, He would do it for you and me as well!
- **There was/is no one that Jesus is unwilling to forgive.** The difference between Judas & Peter, on a human level, after their acts of betrayal, was that Peter was willing to receive Jesus' forgiveness & Judas was not!

We are all God's friends forever because of the posture Jesus took toward us on that Thursday (and Friday) night so long ago! May we not only learn from him, but also follow His example! **This is the craft of the Christian life,** and that which brings Him the greatest worship!

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