-WAY

WALK WITH JESUS AND GAIN PERSPECTIVE

C

THE WAY OF THE TOWEL

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas,

the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing,

but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰ Jesus answered,

"Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet,

he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

JOHN 13:1

⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

JOHN 7:5

THE HOUR TO SERVE

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress,

and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.

Part of Jesus' awareness of time was the reality of the brevity of His own earthly life.

He knew He had all power and all authority.

He knew that He had come from God. He knew that He had to return to God.

Another aspect of Jesus' knowing "the hour" was His ability to know the whereabouts and anticipate the movements of the devil.

THE PEOPLE TO SERVE

⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

JOHN 13:4-5

JESUS SERVED SIMON PETER

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

JOHN 13:6-9

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

JOHN 13:6-9

For Simon Peter, it was unthinkable for Jesus to stoop not only to the level of one of His disciples, but even past it to the level of a slave or servant.

The people whom we serve will not always immediately understand or appreciate our service, but eventually they will see that we are modelling our lives after none other than Jesus.

Jesus wanted Simon Peter to know that foot-washing was not only a sign of cleanliness, but a sign of identification with Jesus

JESUS SERVED JUDAS ISCARIOT

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

³ Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

LUKE 22:3

²⁷ As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

JOHN 13:27

Jesus wanted Judas Iscariot to know that foot-washing was not only a sign of identification with Jesus, but it was a sign of cleanliness.

⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ 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 12:5-6

You cannot serve both God and money.

JOHN 6:24

Jesus taught us to serve the very people who deny and betray us.

INSTRUCTION TO SERVE

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master,

nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

MARK 10:45

In this one act, Jesus was breaking down the hierarchy of status that excuses us from doing what He has called us to do.

If you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus, you need to allow Him to change your perspective.

¹ Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

Who are you imitating and are others imitating Christ in you?

"Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All his wonderful passion and purity, O thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine, Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

- Albert Orsborn - (The Salvation Army)

-WAY

WALK WITH JESUS AND GAIN PERSPECTIVE

C