

The Real Jesus

Jesus the Suffering Servant

I. Introduction

- A. Luke 22:24 (NAS) *And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.*
- B. John 13:1-5, 12-17 (NLT) *¹Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ²It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. ¹²After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."*

II. Jesus the Suffering Servant

- A. The real Jesus was a servant.
1. Philippians 2:5-11 (NAS) *⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
 2. John 13:3-4 (NLT) *³Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist.*
 3. John 13:5 (NLT) *And poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.*
 4. Philippians 2:9-11 (NAS) *⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- B. The identity of Jesus was rooted in His understanding of God's nature.
1. Philippians 2:6-7 (NAS) *⁶Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*
 2. It's the very nature of God to serve!
 3. The role of a servant is available to anyone!
 4. "Anyone can be great because anyone can serve." (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- C. The disciples of Jesus were unwilling to serve.
1. "The disciples were ready to fight for the throne, but not for the towel."

D. The real Jesus calls all of His followers to be servants.

1. John 13:12-15 (NLT) ¹²After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

E. The real Jesus knows what it's like to be betrayed.

1. John 13:21-27 (NLT) ²¹Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!" ²²The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. ²³The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. ²⁴Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, "Who's he talking about?" ²⁵So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus responded, "It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl." And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry and do what you're going to do."
2. The real Jesus understands what it feels like to be betrayed.

III. Conclusion