

Week 28

Jesus Humility

Before we begin let us review John's stated purpose for writing his gospel account. John was the last eyewitness of Jesus life; he had cared for Mary after Jesus departed and was a fearless witness of what he had seen as he spent time with Jesus. It wasn't long after Jesus' departure that false teachings arose regarding Jesus' divinity. The Gnostic cult insisted he was a great teacher, but not divine. John said in his gospel account, Chapter 20:30-31-"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His Name".

Clearly the signs John reported were carefully chosen by him to reveal the divinity of Jesus or prove He was the Messiah. We have talked about those signs, lets review them.

The beginning of His signs, changing the water into wine at a wedding, proved He was in control of natural processes, the source of life. His second sign, John 4:54 Jesus healed the son of a man who had walked 40 miles to Jesus to beg Him for healing. Jesus did not go with the man, He healed the boy by His word, and He is the Master of distance and time, Healer.

The third sign, John 5:8. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, who had been paralyzed 38 years, debilitated and desperate, Jesus told him to get up, take his mat and go home. He did exactly that, showing Jesus LORD of the Sabbath, Healer and Life giver.

The fourth sign, John 6:14, the feeding of the 5000 men, plus or minus 10,000 wives and children, using 2 fish and 5 barley loaves. Jesus told them He is the Bread of Life, our Resource. Jesus created wine with His first sign, He created bread as His 4th sign and He used bread and wine to symbolize His body. Remember He said we have to assimilate Him, the Bread of life, so that we can have eternal life?

The fifth sign, John 6:19, Jesus walking on the water, and then speaking to the storm and it stopped. This all happened in the middle of the Sea of Galilee but suddenly they were at the shore. He is LORD of creation, nature, weather, time and master over all.

The sixth sign, John 9:7, healing the man born blind. This man was born without any natural ability or physical ability to see, maybe he had no eyes. Yet he was seeing when Jesus told him to see. When this miracle was accomplished and the man asked Jesus who He was, and Jesus told him He was the Son of God, the man then fell at Jesus feet and worshiped Him. Jesus, the Healer God, accepted his worship.

The seventh sign we have seen, John 11:43, raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus stated He is the resurrection and the life and everyone who lives and believes in Him will never die. If anyone but God would say this, he would be insane. God is the resurrection and the life and Jesus accomplished this for us. We have hope and a future.

Having reviewed the signs we have studied, now I ask you "do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God"? Do you have eternal life? When the Pharisees asked him if he was the Messiah, that is divine, His answer was that He and the Father are one and the same, they picked up stones to stone Him for saying He was God. Has anyone ever said to you "Jesus never said He was God"? That is absolutely not true, He was nearly stoned for saying it.

John Chapter 13:1

Here we find Jesus just before the Feast of the Passover knowing His hour had come. Recall that several times in the past studies we learned from John that Jesus hour had not come, but now, in retrospect, John realized these events had taken place at the end of Jesus earthly life. The text tells us that Jesus loved His own to the end or another way of putting it is "to the full extent". Now we know what that full extend was, He was preparing to accept the punishment for all the sin of every man and to die of that punishment. He would then rise from the dead to show He is victorious over death and sin.

It's amazing to me that Jesus knew that every one of these men would forsake Him when He needed them most, they were going to let Him down and yet He loved them. The way He was about to show His love never occurred to them, it would have been unthinkable to consider that God would die for them.

Not only were His disciples inconsistent, what about us? His love is continuous and so is His forgiveness while I go on daily letting Him down and He bears with me from my conversion to now and on to my death. Yet the bible says His mercies are new every morning and His faithfulness to me remains forever.

John 13:2-4

What a contrast between Jesus and Judas. In all that three years, Judas had been present to see the miracles and hear the teachings. No doubt he was included when Jesus sent out His disciples two by two and had preached and healed. Is there any other warning in scripture so great as this man? Judas shows us to what lengths a person may go to insist on his religion and goodness and yet be rotten to the core. High privilege is useless if our hearts do not value them and use them for good. Judas shows us the uselessness of mere head knowledge. There is nothing new in hypocrisy.

Jesus knew He would soon depart this life, have the horrible experience of suffering and separation from the Father, death. But also He knew He would return to His relationship with the Father. He had hope and a future, and that is what He gave us.

Because of Jesus, we have hope and a future; no matter how old we are, no matter how sick we are.

John 13:4

Just consider Philippians 2:5-8 "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." Paul's commentary here shows us the truth again that Jesus is God, yet His humility was such that He didn't lord it over His disciples to the point where He washed their feet.

It is instructive to notice in Luke's gospel

Luke 22:24 "There arose a discussion/argument among them as to which one of them was regarded to be the greatest." This dispute came up just as they were finishing dinner, Jesus had instituted the Lord's Supper and told us to do this in remembrance of Him, and He had predicted He would be betrayed.

So His response to the embarrassing discussion of the disciples was to take a towel and a basin and wash their feet. Embarrassing because I am convinced that these men never thought of this night without thinking of their abominable pride and arrogance, just before they saw the greatest act of love, courage and humility, the willing giving of His body to suffering a death by their Master, Jesus, preceded by Him washing their feet.

Again, foot washing was the job of the lowliest slave, not the Master. Can you imagine being in their place, knowing Who Jesus is, and having Him wash your feet?

John 13:6-7

Peter's reaction was probably a normal one; do you ever wonder why God is dealing with you in a certain way? Sometimes it is impossible to understand God's way of dealing with us immediately but some time we will understand. Just as Peter, when he wrote his letters 1 Peter 5:5-6b "clothe yourselves with humility toward on another for God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He might exalt you at the proper time." Peter learned the lesson of true humility.

John 13:8

We learn from this that all need to come to Jesus for cleansing from sin, no exceptions. No one but Jesus can cleanse from sin. Nothing but Jesus blood can make us clean before God. Romans 3:23 says "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". Let's do some inductive bible study about sin. First we find out how many have sinned? If you said "all" you are correct. This word sin, Greek, "harartano", means miss the mark, to be without a share in, violate God's law. The bible says all of us have violated God's law and we have no share in Him. I don't know how many people have told me

"I don't sin". What does the bible say about that? Let's just check and see where we stand, turn to Exodus 20, the 10 commandments, and God's law.

1. Thou shall have no other God's before you.
Is there anyone or anything you put before God? Your job, children, your parents, your boyfriend? How about yourself? So many people have themselves and their plans/will on the throne of their life, there is no room for God. So the first commandment concerns the object of our worship.
2. You shall not make for yourself a graven idol.
This is concerning the ordinances of worship, worshiping the work of your own hands, even an image of God. Have you ever done this? Are you worshiping something you made up, not what the bible teaches? I have shared the truth of God's Word with many people, the beauty of Christ having done everything we need for our salvation, which we only need believe and accept by faith. But a person will say; no I don't agree with the bible, I have to say this ritual, wear these clothes, attend certain meetings and try to be good. Second commandment broken.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD in vain. I imagine all of you know what that means, or do you? Have you ever said you believed something about the LORD and then your life proved differently? How about jokes, did you ever tell or listen to an irreverent joke about God or Jesus? I have even heard ministers in the pulpit do this?
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor and do all your work but the 7th is a Sabbath to the LORD. This concerns the time of worship. Do you set aside a time to concentrate on Jesus, for prayer, worship, bible study? Do you go to church and worship the LORD when you are able? How are you doing on that one?
That concludes the First Table of the LAW, which concerns our relationship with God. And now the second table, concerning our earthly relationships.
5. Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land the Lord shall give you. Our culture is so far from this I suspect you might have gotten caught up in it at some point. For young people this means obedience and submission. For the elderly parent it means we are to comfort and support as needed. Do you have an elderly parent at Colonial Manor who is lonely and scared?
6. You shall not murder. I don't know how many times I have heard someone say, "I haven't killed anyone". Really? Remember Jesus said as far as He is concerned your deep anger toward another person is the same as murder in His sight. How about road rage? Haven you had an abortion?
7. You shall not commit adultery. Well that is pretty well disregarded in America today. Jesus put an even finer point on it; He said if a man looks at a woman lustfully (or vice versa) it's the same as adultery in His sight. How does porn or even many of our sit-coms fit here?
8. You shall not steal. Have you pirated software or music from the Internet lately? Download someone's work and pass it on as your own lately?

9. You shall not bear false witness. Did you ever tell any lies? You may not mean to do so but it is really easy to do isn't it? It just comes naturally.
10. You shall not covet anything, which belongs to your neighbor. Oh I wish I had that house, car, husband or wife. The language of discontent, our discontent is sin in God's eyes.

How did you do, its hard to find any you haven't broken isn't it? Do you agree you have sinned?

Then we learn also that we have "fallen short", how many have fallen short? Fallen short, "hystero", in the Greek, failed, is the meaning of that word. All have fallen short. Do you agree with God that you have sinned and fallen short? Do you need to come to Jesus to confess your sin and ask for forgiveness? Jesus is able, He is willing to forgive. In addition, we learn from this that once we are cleansed from our sin, our determination to go our own way, then we need a daily application of the cleansing blood to wash away our daily falling short. Every day, I need to ask God's forgiveness, name my sin and accept His pardon by faith.

John 13:9-10

So we learn from Jesus that a man can go through the rituals of the church for salvation and not be saved. How can that be? The ritual is just that to the unsaved, something to do. His heart is not right before God, it is unsundered. He wants eternal life but he is determined to do it himself. Of course, this is a fatal mistake.

John 13:11

John's commentary on these events.

John 13:12-17

Jesus has told us that He is our example of humility; if there is a question about this, then look at Jesus. Are you humble enough to wash feet, it's quite a question? How about accepting having your feet washed by Jesus, wouldn't that require humility? I have friends and family who belong to a church that practices foot washing. I was told by one man what when he washed the feet of his young son, the boy cried, he found it humiliating and yet experienced the love of his father in a whole new way.

Isn't Jesus saying we must be willing to serve one another in any way needed? Is there anything you feel you are above doing? Would your pride interfere with this teaching of Jesus? Do you consider self-denial someone else's job?

John 13:18-19

Jesus is quoting Psalm 41:9. Again we see evidence of Jesus perfect knowledge of all His people. Someone has said "this ought to fill the hypocrite with alarm and drive him to repentance.

Judas has received another warning, did he heed it? John 13:20

The world may despise and ridicule the followers of Jesus. To spend and be spent in trying to do good makes a person far more honorable in the eyes of Jesus, than a high ranking official anywhere. A day will come when these will hear "come you children, blessed of the Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you". Not good works to earn salvation but good works as obedience and outpouring of my gratitude to God.

And Jesus is perhaps reminding the other disciples that even if one falls away they should not be discouraged but persevere. Also keep in mind that we are here warned against mistreatment of the faithful minister of Christ.

Just think of the 70 plus volunteers who make this radio station work. They may have a small or large part to do but doing it with consistency, humility, in a spirit of self-denial, and to the best of their ability, is a service noticed by God and will be rewarded.