

# Loved to the End The Humility of Christ and the Call to Serve

## Loved to the End: The Humility of Christ and the Call to Serve

**Key Text:** John 13:1–17 (NASB 1995); Romans 5:6–8; Hebrews 12:2

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### Introduction

- Scripture is deep enough that one passage can teach many lessons. John 13 is one of those chapters.
  - Too often debates about foot washing distract from what Jesus is actually teaching.
  - This scene takes place at the end of Jesus' ministry, on the eve of the cross.
  - Jesus is preparing His disciples for what life in His kingdom must look like.
  - The central lesson: **humble, self-giving love that serves to the end.**
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### I. Jesus Loved His Own to the End (John 13:1)

“Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

- A. The setting: Jesus knows His hour has come.
  - He knows betrayal, denial, and the cross are near.
  - Yet His love does not weaken when suffering approaches.
- B. His love is steadfast and enduring.
  - He loves even with Judas at the table.
  - He loves even those who will fail Him.
- C. The same love is shown to us.
  - Romans 5:6–8 — Christ died for us while we were still sinners.
  - His love is not based on our worthiness, but on His grace.

### Callout — Encouragement:

Be thankful that Jesus' love is not fragile. He does not quit on weak disciples or sinful

people.

**Callout — Warning:**

Do not assume you understand Christ's love if you are unwilling to love difficult people.

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**II. Jesus Endured Because He Had a Goal (John 13:3; Hebrews 12:2)**

“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...”

- A. Jesus knew where He came from and where He was going.
  - From God, and going back to God.
  - The cross was not the end; glory was.
- B. The goal made the suffering worth enduring.
  - Hebrews 12:2 — He endured the cross for the joy set before Him.
- C. The same principle is true for us.
  - Sacrifice makes sense when there is a clear goal.
  - Without a goal, service feels pointless; with a goal, it becomes purposeful.

**Illustration:**

Athletes endure exhausting training because they have a prize in view. The goal makes the pain worthwhile.

**Callout — Application:**

Christians who forget heaven will struggle to endure hardship. Keep the goal in view.

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**III. Jesus Humbled Himself to Serve (John 13:4–5)**

He laid aside His garments... took a towel... and began to wash the disciples' feet.

- A. The shocking reversal.
  - The Lord takes the place of the lowest servant.

- The One who deserves to be served chooses to serve.
- B. He even washed Judas' feet.
  - The betrayer is not excluded from this act of love.
  - This is humility beyond measure.
- C. This matches the whole life of Jesus.
  - He did not come to be served, but to serve.
  - He consistently looked for ways to help others, not to be honored.

**Callout — Rebuke:**

We often look for ways to be served rather than ways to serve.

**Callout — Application:**

True greatness in Christ's kingdom is found in humble service, not in status or recognition.

**IV. Jesus Gave an Example to Follow (John 13:12–15)**

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

- A. The lesson is bigger than foot washing.
  - The act points to a lifestyle of humility and service.
  - The issue is not the ritual, but the heart.
- B. The principle: no servant is greater than his master (John 13:16).
  - If Jesus served, His disciples must serve.
- C. The blessing is in doing, not just knowing (John 13:17).
  - Knowledge without obedience is empty.
  - Christ calls for imitation, not admiration only.

**Callout — Warning:**

It is possible to praise Jesus' humility and still refuse to practice it.

**Callout — Encouragement:**

There is blessing in living like Christ, not merely talking about Him.

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## Conclusion / Call to Action

- Jesus loved to the end.
- Jesus served with humility.
- Jesus left us an example to follow.
- The question is personal and unavoidable:
  - Do our lives resemble Jesus?
  - Can people see Christ in how we act, speak, and serve?
- This week, measure your life by His example—and choose to serve.

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.” (John 13:15, NASB 1995)

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### Final Call:

Do not just admire the Servant. **Imitate Him.**

<https://youtu.be/2HpLNJgmMpE?si=SAOKMVmQ885YEVs0>