

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
John 13:3-5 ESV

It was less than twenty four hours before Jesus would go to the cross and pay the price for their and our salvation with His humiliating death. He knew the time was close for the ultimate demonstration of His love, where He would willingly lay down His life for us.

In interrupting their meal and performing this demeaning task of washing their feet, Jesus was preparing His disciples for their life without Him. He was teaching and showing them how He wanted them to treat one another. Jesus was showing them, by demonstration, what attitude they were to take with each other. The washing of dirty feet was the practical job of the servants of a house, not the master, yet Jesus, their Master did this act of service for them.

There was no servant in the upper room that night, so the disciples chose rather to eat with dirty feet. It probably never occurred to them to do the servant's job, which was beneath their status. But Jesus made time for another lesson. He wanted to show them how deeply they were to love and serve one another; that there was no place for pride and position in His kingdom. Later on that night He said this, ***"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*** (John 15:2-3)

This demonstration of Jesus and these words of His require some deep reflection. These passages are not referring to our love for God, but for one another, that must be real and practical. In other writings the apostle John said this, ***"And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."*** (1John 4:21). See also 1John 3:17.

John had clearly taken this teaching of Jesus to heart and had lived it, now he was encouraging others to live this way, to do what Jesus said, to obey His teachings.

Do you love your Christian brothers and sisters enough to give of your substance and strength to help them when they are in need? How is your attitude towards your fellow Christians? Are you too proud to stoop down and help another?

May God's love in us compel us to deeply love one another and practically act upon it.

Based on today's devotion, what is God is saying to you?