

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 3 – GOD’S LOVE FOR US

LOVE SERIES (JOHN 13)

- In **John 13** we find the story of Jesus teaching His disciples by His example. Jesus set aside that He was their teacher and Lord and took on the attitude of a common servant.
- When we love another person, many times we hope for something in return. Maybe that they love us in return or will do something nice for us. Jesus was not looking for anything in return.
- This is called unconditional love. It is loving another person and not expecting anything in return. God’s love for us is unconditional.
- In this story, Jesus was teaching His disciples by His example. It was just before the Passover festival and Jesus knew He would soon leave this world and return to His Father. This would be His last meal before one of His own disciples, Judas, would betray Him and He would suffer and die.
- In those days, people wore sandals and walked on dirt roads. Animals also traveled on these same roads leaving animal waste behind, so their feet would get quite dirty.
- It was Jewish custom for people to eat dinner around a low table. They didn’t sit on chairs. Instead, they leaned on pillows with their dirty feet exposed to each other.



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- It was customary in those days that whenever guests came to dinner, a servant in the household would wash the guest's feet. Jesus and His disciple were having dinner in a private home and there was no servant. Apparently, none of the disciples had offered to wash the feet of Jesus and the others. Everyone sat on the floor with dirty feet.
- The evening meal had started when Jesus got up. He took off His outer garment and wrapped a towel around His waist. This is the way a servant would have been dressed while washing the feet of guests.
- Jesus began to do the job of the lowest household servant. He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.
- Imagine the reaction of the disciples. They must have been shocked or even embarrassed. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, *"No, you shall never wash my feet."* This was probably what the rest of them were thinking.
- When Peter tried to stop Jesus from washing his feet, Jesus replied, *"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*
- It was obvious that their feet were dirty and needed washing. But, in those days it was unthinkable that a teacher would wash his disciples' feet.
- However, Jesus needed to teach them humility and love. In **1 John 4:8** it says, *"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."* As their Lord and teacher, Jesus wanted to teach them about love by setting an example for them to follow. Jesus knew that actions speak louder than words.
- The disciples had followed Jesus for three years. They heard Jesus preach multiple times about love and humility. Yet, they were still quarreling among themselves who should be greater.
- Not one of the disciples was willing to humble themselves and wash Jesus' feet because they would also have to wash the others' feet. They did not want to take the role of a servant for the other disciples. No one wanted the other disciples to see him as a lowly servant.

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- Their pride and ambition got in the way. So, Jesus needed to teach His prideful disciples about love and true humility, He didn't just say it; He showed it. The very next day, Jesus would again serve us all by showing His love and humility when He died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.
- When Jesus 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.
- *"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*
- Jesus loved His disciples and it moved Him to lower Himself to be their servant by washing their feet. Jesus wanted His disciples, and us, to know His love. For this we need to humble ourselves. We need to show our love for each other by being a servant to each other.
- With love for His disciples and all of us, Jesus lowered Himself to be a servant to all of mankind. Jesus is the Son of God. He could have had an army of angels protect Him, but He didn't.
- Instead, He humbled Himself. He allowed sinful people to arrest Him. He was beaten, crucified, and buried so our sins would be forgiven.
- Out of love for us, God demonstrated His power over sin and death by raising Jesus from the dead. And, because of God's love, those who put their trust in Jesus will live with Him forever.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of love does God have for us and what does it mean?

- God's love for us is unconditional. Unconditional love is loving another person and not expecting anything in return.

2. In the time of Jesus, why was it necessary to wash feet?

- People wore sandals and walked on dirt roads. Animals also traveled on these same roads leaving animal waste behind, so their feet would get quite dirty.

3. Who would typically wash the feet of guests?

- A servant in the household would wash the guest's feet.

4. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?

- Their feet were dirty and there was no servant to wash them. None of the disciples would wash each other's feet. Jesus wanted to teach them about love and humility.

5. Why did the disciple not want to wash each other's feet?

- They did not want to take the role of a servant for the other disciples. No one wanted the other disciples to see them as a lowly servant.

6. What should be our response be to the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet?

- We should do for each other as Jesus did for us. We should humble ourselves and become a servant for each other.

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How has God shown His love for you?

- Take time to think about all the ways God shows love to you. Count your blessings. Talk with God every day in prayer. Listen to Him by reading His word or watching Bible lessons on video. Give thanks and praise that you can love others because He first loved you.

2. How can you become a servant and show your love for someone else, especially someone who is hard to love?

- Pray and ask God for a spirit of humility. Think of the other person as a child of God, someone who God died on the cross to save. Look for ways to serve them, like helping them with their chores.

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