

Day 19, January 27, 2023 - Love

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that”. - Martin Luther King Jr.

On the Friday that Jesus died it might seem that the wrath of God had overshadowed the love of God. But not so! Instead mercy triumphed over Judgment, and love triumphed over wrath.

At the last supper Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He also gave them a new commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you." But the disciples don't fully comprehend how deeply Jesus has loved them. After all they had been through, it took a king on His knees with a towel around His waist to prove to them the loving, servant heart of God. What if those in authority would wash the feet of fishermen or common laborers today? What if it were your feet? But even so, Peter the disciple doesn't understand why Jesus would defile Himself in this way. As it is today, some still do not understand the humility of foot washing. It's a servant task. Are we all servants?

If that night Peter finds it hard to accept that Jesus His king would humiliate Himself by washing His followers' feet, he will be even more confounded the next day. For there will be yet another demonstration of the magnitude of God's love as he sees Jesus on the cross. It is here that the perfect love of God in Jesus, faces the wrath of God against evil, but triumphs in the end. All for the love of us. The sacrifice for you and me.

Additional Scripture (NASB)

John 13:1-15 - *“Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 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, *got up from supper, and *laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Simon Peter *said to Him, “Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” Jesus *said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.” So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the*

table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."

How true it is that a servant is not greater than the master. Nor are messengers more important than the one who sends them. You know these things – now do them! That is the path of blessing. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Reflection

- Are you washed in the love of Jesus?
- Whose feet do you need to wash in humility and love?
- In what areas of your life and in what relationships do you need His Spirit of love and humility?
- How can you serve others, especially those you are the closest to? How can you grant another the peace He has freely given us?

Prayer

Father; wash me clean Lord. I want to receive all You have for me. I am blessed and honored when You serve me; I am humbled by Your humility. Help me remember Your healing and cleansing. Don't let me forget the cost of my salvation. In darkness help me call on Your name Jesus. In darkness, be the light of my heart; may I never be afraid. I am longing for Your sunrise, Jesus. In Your mercy, give me the gift of hope. And by Your love, help me to love others. Teach me Your way in the coming days. Help me to understand how You have loved me, and how You love me still.