



## WORD

<sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

<sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. JOHN 13:3-5

## WHAT

The night before His crucifixion, Jesus modeled something that the disciples will never forget—Jesus washed their feet. At that time, this act was a religious custom typically done by Gentile slaves and not by Jews (Exodus 21:2; Leviticus 25:39, 46) and certainly not by masters! How come Jesus, whom they knew as the Son of God, Teacher, and Lord, would stoop down and humble Himself this way? Here are some things we can learn from Him.

### 1 True humility is impossible apart from your relationship with God.

*Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."* JOHN 5:19

In His own words, Jesus did only what He sees the Father doing. In fact, his relationship with the Father led him to do nothing by Himself. This truth is where true humility is grounded. We emulate Jesus' example of humility on the basis of a personal relationship with God. Why do you think having a personal relationship with God is important to learning true humility?

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### 2 Jesus showed that true humility is compelled by God's love.

*...<sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.* JOHN 13:4,5

Slaves wash the feet of their masters because they are expected to do it and not primarily out of love. On the other end, it is disgraceful for a master to assume the role of a servant. However, Jesus, regardless of His position, humbled Himself and took on the role of a servant (Philippians 2:7) out of His love for people. Why do you think humility must be compelled by God's love?

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### 3 Jesus expects every believer to follow His example.

*"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."* JOHN 13:14

Jesus' call for believers to serve one another is in the context of spiritual family. The act of washing the feet denies self-will and chooses to serve others. This is the example set by Christ for us to follow. How will you put into practice what Jesus says in Matthew 20:27?

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