

Divine Worship

John 13.1-15

“The Likeness of Christ (2): Servants”

Preparation

But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Mark 10.42-45

Silent Meditation

Call to Worship

Leader:

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 146.1, 2

People:

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

All:

While I live I will praise the LORD; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Hymn of Praise

(Hallelujah! What a Savior!: [*Man of Sorrows*](#))

Psalm 146.1-7, 10

Praise the Lord, my soul, give praise! While I live, His Name I'll raise!
And exalt Him all my days – God forever reigns in Zion!

Trust we not in prince or man – no salvation's in their hand;
Death shall take them, breath and plans – God forever reigns in Zion!

Blessed are they whose hope resides in the Lord, Christ at His side.
By Him heav'n and earth abide – God forever reigns in Zion!

He is faithful evermore; He gives justice to the poor,
Feeds the hungry from His store – God forever reigns in Zion!

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

O Lord Jesus, to You Who came among us as a Servant, stooping to redeem and forgive us, and now raised and exalted to rule over us, we bring our worship, Lord. We are Your servants, and we long to know and love You better. We ask you, Lord to search us as we come to You, to discover our sins, and lead us to confess and repent of them, as we open our souls to You in confession. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Psalm 146.5-8

Leader: Hear these words of assurance from our Lord:

Happy *is he* who *has* the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope *is* in the LORD his God,
Who made heaven and earth,
The sea, and all that *is* in them;
Who keeps truth forever,
Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.
The LORD opens *the eyes* of the blind;
The LORD raises those who are bowed down;
The LORD loves the righteous.

Hymn of Assurance

“Blessed Assurance” by Frances J. Crosby

(Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord’s Prayer**.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the **Leader shall pray**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles’ Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

John 13.1-15

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it. Have someone prepared to read each of the passages mentioned in the first paragraph of today's study.

Leader:

In this series, which began in Luke 19.1-10, we're looking at Jesus, to discover how we may, like the apostle Paul, imitate Him in our daily lives (1 Cor. 11.1). We have seen that Jesus was a Seeker: He came to seek the lost, to seek and make disciples, and to seek the Kingdom and glory of God. He has sent us into the world as seekers, just as He was sent to the world.

In our text today, Jesus takes on another role, one which characterized Him throughout His ministry, and which was the design for His ministry from all eternity past, as Paul explains in Philippians 2.5-11. This is the role of a Servant. What words in Philippians 2.5-11 describe Jesus as a Servant?

On the night of His betrayal, we find our Lord Jesus Christ serving His disciples in the upper room, where they ate their meal together. Jesus served them in a most dramatic manner, by washing their feet. He intended this as a living metaphor of what it means to serve. Let's ask a few questions here.

1. First, what did Jesus *know* as He began this particular work of service (vv. 1-3)? How did that help Him in carrying out this work?
2. Second, what did Jesus have to do to *prepare* for serving His disciples (vv. 4, 5)?
3. Third, how would you describe Jesus' determination to *complete this act of service*?

Jesus washed His disciples' feet because He was called to serve them, and in washing their feet, He accomplished two things. First, He imprinted *a dramatic image of serving* on their minds. Serving is humble work. One must get his mind around this calling, and make preparation for it if he is to fulfill the role of a servant. Further, since God calls us to serve, we must not allow ourselves to be deterred by others, who for whatever reason, might prefer not to be served by us.

Second, Jesus gave His disciples *the experience of being served*. They not only saw what a servant does, but they experienced what it was like to be served.

4. Why would that have been an important part of their preparation as servants?

Jesus brought this act of service to completion with a kind of “review.” He wanted to make sure they understood both what He had done and why He had done it. His purpose was to say that they must learn to imitate Him and carry out the role of servant to the people around them.

5. Ultimately, as we have seen, Jesus fulfilled His role of Servant by dying on the cross to bring redeeming grace to the world. How does this part of Jesus' example inform and guide our calling as servants?
6. What are the primary lessons for you from this lesson on being a servant like Jesus?

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 146.7-10, 5, 6

(Hallelujah! What a Savior!: [Man of Sorrows](#))

Jesus sets the pris'ner free, heals blind eyes that they may see,
Lifts those burdened painfully – God forever reigns in Zion!

He the righteous loves the best; wand'ers in His grace are blessed;
Needy ones in Him find rest – God forever reigns in Zion!

But the wicked who defame His eternal blessed Name,
Them He brings to ruin and shame – God forever reigns in Zion!

Blessed are they whose hope resides in the Lord, Christ at His side.
By Him heav'n and earth abide – God forever reigns in Zion!

Benediction

Psalm 145.20a, 21

Leader:

The LORD preserves all who love Him...

All

My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD,
And all flesh shall bless His holy name
Forever and ever.

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