

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The word of our Humble Servant for this morning is taken from the Gospel of John 13:14-21.

**14 "If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' 19 "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*. 20 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." 21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."**

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

What work would you consider beneath you? I believe this question can be answered many different ways. Depending on what you do now something could be considered a low station by one person but could be considered a high station by another.

And sometimes even if we stay within a certain job but have more authority we see it as having more prestige. Being a servant is something that is looked down upon by our egos. We try and climb the ladder in the hopes of having less physical labor. We hope to climb the ladder in the hopes of having more authority.

We might say, 'I want to be proud of what I do.' Not always in the fact that I simply do a good job, but that I can say with an unhealthy pride that I do this or that thing. And that I have this or that much authority.

Outside of the sinfulness of this attitude does it affect us other ways? Does it affect the way we look at Jesus sometimes? And does it affect the way we deal with others?

Dealing with our pride and ego's is something that we will all struggle with to some degree. But we have an example before us this morning in the word of God. One that tells us that, **"There is no shame being a servant."**

Considering how long Jesus and the disciples were together their relationship was about as packed full as one could get. Having that much time together Jesus had every opportunity to reveal not only to the disciples but to the world what He was about. There is a danger though in having a set of blinders on and making someone out to be something they're not. Or to be so enamored with someone we don't care to see or hear what they're saying to us.

What the Lord did to the disciples in our text was something that was looked down upon by the culture of the time. The washing of feet was considered the lowliest thing one could do. Certain servants performed this work. Another servant of higher station would be ashamed in performing such work.

The people of the time basically wore sandals. They walked upon many roads of dirt. Dirt would accumulate upon the feet and would get tracked into the home into which you ventured. The home owner now wanting to have his home remain clean would have the feet of his guests washed.

The disciples knew these things. But it is important for us to know this in order to understand the first verse of our text. **"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."**

By word and deed Jesus was showing the disciples what kind of attitude they should take on. Jesus points out that He was their Lord and Teacher but He found no shame in being a servant. As I spoke of earlier, we like to have positions of authority and to exercise it. Jesus being God had every right to exercise authority but He chose not to.

John the Baptist knew what kind of authority Jesus had in His Godhead. He knew where he was in relation to the Son of God. John said this of Jesus, Mark 1:7 **"And he preached, saying, 'There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.'"** There we are back to the example of feet and sandals. Not only did John think he wasn't worthy to wash Jesus' feet, he didn't even think he was worthy enough to loosen the strap of the sandal of God.

Who do we have telling us that **"There is no shame in being a servant?"** We have God Himself telling us this. The One who with simple words created the heavens and the earth. The One who causes the plants and animals to come and go in their season. The One who can perform any miracle He sees fit. The One who prophesied through the prophets of all that would come to pass and He made it happen with complete accuracy. We have the One who has power of life and death in His hand. Yet He being Lord and Teacher humbled Himself. But why should we care if Jesus humbled Himself? Phil. 2:8 **"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."**

It would be one thing if Jesus came to be what many people think of Him. Simply a humble man who had many good things to say who met an unfortunate death by crucifixion. But as with the examples given the One who came was the Only Begotten Son of God full of grace and truth who humbled Himself to the point of death.

That is why we should care. That is why we should care that Jesus took on the form of a servant and chose to die. But why should we care if He died? Do we really care? I hope we do. I hope we don't look past what Jesus did for us because we hear about it every week. It is so important because we have been shown by God's law that the relationship mankind had with God before the fall into sin has been broken.

Romans 8:7 **"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."**

We cannot please God. We all have flesh. We can all see one another sitting here today. We can't escape the condemnation of this one simple verse of Scripture.

Jesus as the Philippians passage spoke of was found in the appearance of a man. What does that mean for us in the light of this passage? It is referred to as the incarnation of Jesus. God became flesh. And in

that way, Heb. 4:15 **“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.”**

And thank God for that. Thank God that His plan of salvation included Jesus counting Himself as nothing. That He might come and take on flesh to live a perfect life for us. That He might die a perfect death for us. And that He might conquer death by rising again; which assures our salvation in Him and an eternity of perfection with Him in heaven.

Do you think **“There is no shame in being a servant?”** Jesus said, **“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”** Jesus didn’t do this only for effect. A point was trying to make with the clear expectation that as His children we would follow through on it.

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.”** If we call ourselves servants of God and if we believe that we are included in the great commission then these examples speak to us. But why should we care?

I pray we would see that **“There is no shame in being a servant”** because there are billions of people in the world without the faith in Jesus that you have been given.

Do we preach the word of God to certain people only? Do we exclude others? For us it is something as simple as preaching to a certain sex only. Do we share the message of Jesus with only the young or the old? Do we only want to talk with a certain race because of a prejudice? Does our flesh put a stumbling block before us so we don’t desire to preach the word to every creature? In giving us this example from our text it’s clear that Jesus needed to show the disciples that they shouldn’t have this attitude. We have the same flesh as the disciples and at times can fall prey to the same sin of pride, not seeing that, **“There is no shame in being a servant.”**

If Jesus would’ve had this attitude the Scripture wouldn’t have been written, Romans 6:10a **“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all.”** In this verse we see what is called universal Justification. We see the Son of God dying for the sins of ALL mankind. Men, women, young, old, every race, and every income level.

If we didn’t have a God who loved us like this we would be unsure of whether or not we had our sins paid for by Jesus’ death. But all of us and the entire world are included in the simple word ‘all’. Christ died once for all. For you. And for everyone you come in contact with.

As you see, believing that **“There is no shame in being a servant”** was vital for our sake. Without Jesus taking on this attitude we might be left wondering about our salvation. And seeing that **“There is no shame in being a servant”** for the sake of others is just as vital for the sake of their soul as well. Amen.