

Love

And now I will show you the most excellent way.

**13** If I speak in the tongues<sup>4</sup> of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,<sup>5</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**<sup>8</sup>Love never fails.** But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

*~ John 13:1-5*

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

“No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”

Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”

*~ John 13:6-9*

Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

*~ John 13:10-15*



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# **I. The specific act of service that Jesus performed.**

1. It was very **UNDIGNIFIED**.
2. It was very **UNSANITARY**.
3. It was very **AWKWARD**.

## II. Three important truths that will help us better understand our duty as servants.

1. The world adores the SUPERSTAR, but God honors the SERVANT.
2. The world equates success with STATUS, but God equates success with SERVICE.

Everything the Pharisees do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called “Rabbi.”

~ *Matthew 23:5-7*



When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song:

*“Saul has killed his thousands,  
and David his ten thousands!”*

This made Saul very angry.

*~ 1 Samuel 18:6-8*

## II. Three important truths that will help us better understand our duty as servants.

1. The world adores the SUPERSTAR, but God honors the SERVANT.
2. The world equates success with STATUS, but God equates success with SERVICE.
3. Most of the world is chasing HAPPINESS, while God has promised BLESSEDNESS.

Now that you know these things, God will bless you if you do them.

~ *John 13:17*

I am innocent of this man's blood.  
The responsibility is yours.

*~ Matthew 27:24*

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