



GOSPEL *of* JOHN

" THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE "

John 13:1-20

OBSERVATION 1....

JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS ROOTED IN HIS IDENTITY

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

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Jesus lived in an inside-out rhythm of life. He withdraws from the crowds, prays in a quiet place by the lake, in the hills, in the desert, or up in the mountains. He shared his heart with the Father. He prayed and meditated on Scripture. He listened to the Father, submitted to his leadership, and obeyed.

Study: Jesus' Rhythm of Life in Mark's Gospel: rooted in His identity with His Father

- Mark 1:9-13
- Mark 1:35
- Mark 1:45
- Mark 3:13
- Mark 6:30-32
- Mark 6:45-46
- Mark 9:2-13
- Mark 14:12-31
- Mark 14:32-42

" THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE "

Application:

Only when we accept our worth before God are we free to effectively serve to the needs of others.

1 Sam 16:7 “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”.

Jesus spiritual life was rooted in his identity this means for us..... Relationship comes BEFORE activity

“ THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE ”

OBSERVATION 1....
JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS
ROOTED IN HIS IDENTITY

OBSERVATION 2....
JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS
ROOTED IN HIS SONSHIP NOT STATUS

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and **that he had come from God** and was returning to God; John 13:3

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Slaves were looked down upon in the ancient world - Peter cannot stand the thought of his teacher doing the work of a slave (13:6).

In the original language, *you* and *my*, are emphasised - Peter expresses love but it lacks humility, which is one of the essential attributes of discipleship according to John.

This humble act of service was a mark of love:



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This humble act of service was a mark of love:

The opening verses of chapter 13 sets the scene for the whole of chapters 13-17.

Love is one of the key terms in chapters 13--17, occurring 31 times in the following 5 chapters as compared to only 6 times in chapters 1-12 of John.



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The one into whose hands the Father had given all (13:3) now takes his disciples' feet into his hands to wash them.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you (vv. 14-15).

What does Jesus have in mind?

A footwashing ceremony? Jesus, however, does not say to do "what" he did but "as" he did.

The cleansing and the further footwashing are symbolic of the revelation that Jesus gave of the Father: the selfless love of God

" T H A T Y O U M A Y B E L I E V E "

Application:

How can we serve in loving humility?

The same as Jesus, our spiritual life was rooted must be rooted in sonship not status

Discovering our identity as God's loved children.

Most of us know in our heads that we are loved unconditionally, but few of us experience it deeply in our hearts. Our identity is more likely to be shaped by achievement, productivity and reputation than it is by what God says of us.

" THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE "

“Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. It takes very little to raise me up or thrust me down. Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves. All the time and energy I spend in keeping some kind of balance and preventing myself from being tipped over and drowning shows that my life is mostly a struggle for survival: not a holy struggle, but an anxious struggle resulting from the mistaken idea that it is the world that defines me.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen, Return of the Prodigal Son

OBSERVATION 1....
JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS
ROOTED IN HIS IDENTITY

OBSERVATION 2....
JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS
ROOTED IN HIS SONSHIP NOT STATUS

OBSERVATION 3....
JESUS SPIRITUAL LIFE WAS
ROOTED IN HIS HIS FUTURE NOT HIS PAST

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God **and was returning to God**; John 13:3

" THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE "

Jesus knew he was returning to the Father but first he had to endure...

Obedience to the way of the cross even through **BETRAYAL**:

Lifting up the foot to expose the sole is an especially offensive gesture even today in the Middle East because they are often perceived as unclean, especially the soles.



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The betrayal of Judas does not begin until verse 27, so the psalm is given by Jesus as a prophecy (v19).

Jesus' foreknowledge of the event is emphasized (cf. 14:28, 31) and is even evidence of his divinity, that he is the I AM (*ego eimi; I am He*, v. 19).

The I AM has been used before by John e.g. 8:58 and linked back to the Old Testament.

It makes the presentation of the deity of Christ undeniable

" THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE "

Jesus though He is God, is fully aware He is going to the cross to die in our place, to be the way we can be reconciled to God the Father.

Luke 9:51 “Set face as flint towards Jerusalem”

Heb 12:2 for the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame

Heb 5:7 he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears

Application:

Bible is clear that followers of Jesus have an eternal inheritance

...one that can never spoil, fade or perish (**1 Peter 1:4**)

....being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (**Titus 3:7**)

.....that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (**Eph 1:18**)

Salvation not simply about forgiveness and a ticket to heaven!

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Conclusion:

In the story of the footwashing we have the most profound revelation of the heart of God apart from the crucifixion itself. We see the spiritual life of Jesus rooted in loving, humble service.

How does this compare with our spiritual lives?

Is our spiritual life rooted in **our identity in Christ?**

Is our spiritual life rooted in **our sonship not status?**

Is our spiritual life rooted in **our future and not our past?**

If not, what needs to change in your spiritual life?

Is it an attitude?

Is it an activity?

Is it an action?

“NOW THAT YOU KNOW THESE THINGS, YOU WILL BE BLESSED IF YOU DO THEM.”

John 13:17

“ THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE ”

The image features a dark, textured background that resembles a close-up of a rough surface or a dense forest floor. A prominent white brushstroke, with a slightly irregular, hand-painted appearance, runs horizontally across the lower portion of the frame. Inside this white stroke, the text " THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE " is written in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within the stroke and is flanked by small white spaces on either side, giving it the appearance of being written on a piece of paper or a sign. The overall composition is minimalist and evocative, suggesting a sense of mystery or a path leading to a hidden truth.

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