

**Study Questions:**  
**“The Curse and the Cubicle” Part 6**  
**John 13:1-20**

**KEY POINTS**

- God’s love sets an example of the need for disciples to love.
- Leaders should serve those they lead.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ humbled Himself.
- We don’t always understand what God is doing.
- Servants are not greater than their masters and neither are we greater than Jesus Christ.
- Those who are humble will be blessed.

- 1) **READ** John 13:1-4a. John mentions “love” 39 times in the Gospel of John while Matthew, Mark and Luke mentions it 27 times combined. **READ** John 3:16 and John 13:34. What does this say about the importance of “love” from the perspective<sup>1</sup> of John? **RESPOND** from the perspective of God and from the perspective of a disciple.
  
- 2) In the message you heard the devil placed the idea of betraying Jesus into the heart of Judas Iscariot (John 13:2). Why should the devil be blamed for something Judas did on his own accord? Does this mean the devil is behind all evil that people perpetrate? **READ** 1 John 2:15-16. How does this passage shed light on our actions?
  
- 3) **READ** John 13:4-5. We see Jesus preparing to humble Himself before His disciples. The passage reads, “*He laid aside His outer garments...*” What insight do we gain from this passage in regards to our relationship with who we are and what we do? Have you ever laid aside your personal agenda to get things done for other people? Was this difficult or easy?
  
- 4) **EXPLAIN** the necessity of foot washing in the day of Jesus. Do you think foot washing requires “humility?” **LIST** a few activities which you believe

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<sup>1</sup> John’s Gospel is not just his opinion but an important highlight which the Holy Spirit wants to draw our attention. (cf. John 3:19, 35; 5:20, 42; 8:42; 10:17; 11:3, 5, 36; 12:25, 43; 14:15, 21, 23, 24, 28, 31, etc.)

are examples of humility. What is humility<sup>2,3</sup> and can it ever become a source of pride? Please explain.

- 5) Should a king ever do the job of a servant? How did Peter initially feel about Jesus washing his feet? **READ** John 13:6-11. Would you allow your boss to wash your feet? If foot washing would be prohibitive on the job or at school what alternative action of humility would be acceptable? In what ways do you humble yourself?
- 6) In verse 7 Jesus told Peter what He was doing now he would not understand but later he would. What was it that Peter didn't understand at the moment and did he understand later? In what way did Jesus help them understand the significance of foot washing? **CITE** a verse in our passage for your answer. Are there some things God did in your life that you didn't understand until later? Please share if you are able?
- 7) **EXPLAIN** John 13:8-11. Focus specifically on when Jesus said, *"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me"* (v. 9) and *"The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you"* (v. 10).

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<sup>2</sup> JOHN CASSIAN: "And so it is most clearly established by examples and testimonies from Scripture that the mischief of pride, although it comes later in the order of the combat, is yet earlier in origin and is the beginning of all sins and faults. Neither is it (like the other vices) simply fatal to its opposite virtue—that is, humility—but it is also at the same time destructive of *all* virtues. Nor does it only tempt ordinary folk and small people, but chiefly those who already stand on the heights of valor."

<sup>3</sup> **DO NOT BE PROUD OF HUMILITY.** JEROME: I know your humility...But now that you have despised the boastfulness of the world, do not let the fact inspire you with new boastfulness. Harbor not the secret thought that having ceased to court attention in garments of gold you may begin to do so in mean attire. And when you come into a room full of brothers and sisters, do not sit in too low a place or plead that you are unworthy of a footstool. Do not deliberately lower your voice as though worn out with fasting; or, leaning on the shoulder of another, mimic the tottering gait of one who is faint. Some women, it is true, disfigure their faces so that they may appear to other people to fast. As soon as they catch sight of any one, they groan, they look down; they cover up their faces, except for one eye, which they keep free to see with. Their dress is somber, their girdles are of sackcloth, their hands and feet are dirty; only their stomachs—which cannot be seen—are hot with food. Of these the psalm is sung daily: "The Lord will scatter the bones of them that please themselves." Others change their garb and assume the appearance of men, being ashamed of being what they were born to be—women. They cut off their hair and are not ashamed to look like eunuchs. Some clothe themselves in goat's hair, and, putting on hoods, pretending to become children again by making themselves look like so many owls."