

Servitude With Humility

"Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil". John 12:1-3

*"After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." **John 13:5-8***

Near the Passover time, Jesus went to Bethany where Lazarus was and ate with His friends. Among those who loved Jesus were his friends at Bethany. In a world that would not receive him, among His own people who would not own him (moreover, who were intending to kill him), how comforting it must have been for him to have a place of rest and love, a home to which he could resort. Prior to the meal, Martha was insistent on serving and making sure everything was perfect for Jesus. I can't help but wonder if Mary wasn't the only person who truly understood what was to come other than Jesus. Jesus said many times to His disciples, "My hour has not yet come," yet they somehow couldn't grasp what Jesus was saying until later. What love Mary showed Jesus as she took a pound of very costly oil and anointed Jesus' feet the entire time Martha was busily serving. Judas was concerned about the cost of the oil and how they could sell it and get money for it. Mary shows the love and humility that is an example to all of us. Martha shows serving as an example of legalistic and traditional importance over love and humility. And Judas shows an example of greed and selfishness and materialistic thinking.

Jesus showed His love to His friends as He washed the disciples' feet. Jesus, the Teacher and Master, had stooped to a position of humility and service because he loved those he served. Jesus commanded his disciples to love one another according to the model he provided. They were to serve one another in love and with humility. This humility is also referred to in Philippians....

*"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus". **Philippians 2:3-5***

The action of Jesus girding Himself with a towel illustrated how he humbled Himself to take the form of a servant. After washing the disciples' feet (a sign of his cleansing ministry), he put his garments on again and returned to his former position. This exhibited his return to glory and to God. The entire scene is very close to what Paul verbalized in Philippians....

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 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". **Philippians 2:5-11**

Mary and Christ's humble servitude in the face of Jesus' death and in Judas's imminent betrayal forms one of the most touching episodes and examples of love and humility in all of Scripture.

God, heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, I pray for all my friends, family and brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray we will all learn from the example taught to us by Your Word; Jesus our friend and brother, to have a humble heart and in humble servitude love as Jesus and our Father God loves us. I pray God genuinely blesses each of the people who read this devotional, their friends and their families. I praise God for all He is teaching and working out in all our lives. Heavenly Father we thank you for all our brothers and sisters in Christ and ask you to bless each of them and touch their hearts and souls and minds with a humbleness that we can only learn by Your example. God, I thank You for all the people who emulate Your love to show us a glimpse of Your Son Jesus. I thank You for all the people who get on their knees each day in pray for the lost who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Savior. And God I thank you for answering their prayers. God, I thank You for the entire body of Christ, especially my brothers and sisters in Christ at my local church who show love to each other even when a member is struggling. I thank you God for helping us to see through the eyes of Jesus, and teaching us that being different isn't so different after all. God, I ask if it is your will to genuinely heal all the people who read this prayer who have a need and lift up their burdens and draw them closer to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.