

Today I want us to examine what Jesus said about servant hood to His disciples during the last supper. Jesus had already spoken many times before about servants and yet His disciples never quite caught on to the importance of it. So, here He began to show them exactly what a servant was by His example; He washed their feet. Now you must understand that washing someone's feet was the lowest task anyone could do. No Jew liked it. Only servants washed guest's feet. And yet Jesus Christ is acting as a servant to His disciples in order to teach them about the Godly qualities of humility and kindness. He showed by example how to love one another. Let's look at what else we can learn from this act.

I. He laid aside His garment. Vs. 4 If we are to become the servant of others, we must lay aside those things that encumber us. The garment talked about here was an outer robe that often restricted one's movement. So it was either gathered up about the waist to remove completely to make it easier to work. What is it in your life that restricts you from becoming what you ought to be? What is in your life that encumbers you and needs to be removed? Just as Jesus removed His robe in order to serve, we must get rid of the things that hinder us from being Christ like. Is it pride? Is it materialism? Is it the love of somebody more than God Himself? Whatever it is, God want us to give it to Him and He will defeat its power over us. Heb 12:1-2

II. He girded Himself. Vs. 4 We see here that Jesus was preparing to perform the task. He did what was necessary and appropriate to meet the challenge. He knew what it would take to wash the disciple's feet, and He prepared Himself and was ready when the time came. How can we know we are ready to meet the needs of others in a humble way? Eph. 6:13-17 We are commanded to clothe ourselves in God's armor in order to stand firm against the evil of the world. Be prepared; be ready to fight evil; know what is needed; be willing to put it into action.

III. He began to wash their feet. Vs. 5 This is the most important thing Jesus did in this passage. This is where He put into real action His Spirit of humility. You see, even though He had laid aside all the things that could have gotten in the way, and although He had prepared everything perfectly, none of that would have meant anything or counted until He washed their feet. It was only then that Jesus really became a servant to the disciples and humbled Himself before them. Look at what He tells Peter in vs. 8-10. If we are not washed by Jesus, that is to allow Him to save us, then we will have no part with Him. And once we have been saved we need only to confess our sin to retain our cleanliness, just as Peter only needed his feet washed.