

**“Redemption’s Song:
The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”
It’s a Song of Surrender: The Servant
“I have given you an example to follow.
Do as I have done to you.” John 13:1-18**

A. Jesus performs the act of a servant...

1. The time...it was just before Passover.
“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.” Vs 1
2. It was time for supper with His disciples.
“It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.” Vs 2
3. No one had washed his feet, so Jesus took the act of service as an act of love.
“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.” Vs 4,5
4. Jesus used this humble act of service to teach His disciples by example.
“After washing their feet, He put on His robe again and sat down and asked, ‘Do you understand what I was doing?’” Vs 12

B. An everyday opportunity to show servanthood...

- “As John was finishing His ministry he asked, ‘Do you think I am the Messiah? No, I am not! But He is coming soon—and I’m not even worthy to be His slave and untie the sandals on His feet.’” Acts 13:25*
1. It was the custom to take off your shoes upon entering a home or a holy place.
 2. It was the custom to wash your hands and feet before meals and before bed.
 3. Sandals or light shoes were standard footwear.
 4. Ordinary people furnished guests with water and they washed their own feet. Richer homes had a slave to do the task, and this was the lowliest of services. Thus, John the Baptist’s response, *“I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of His sandals” Mark 1:7*

C. Jesus knew...

1. Jesus knew His power but He willingly gave it up to demonstrate His love and true servanthood.
“Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God.” Vs 3
2. Jesus knew the custom of the day but He crossed boundaries to demonstrate that nothing was beneath a true servant.
“So he got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist,” Vs 4
3. Jesus knew that the disciples wouldn’t fully understand what He was doing but would grasp it later.
“Jesus replied, ‘You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.’” Vs 7
4. Jesus knew who would betray Him but that didn’t hinder His true service.
“For Jesus knew who would betray Him.” Vs 11a
5. Jesus knew that a visual picture would be created in their minds that they would never forget.
“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” Vs 15
6. Jesus knew that they had to hear directly what their response should be.
“And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.” Vs 14
7. Jesus knew that servanthood, in our minds, is always challenged by our self-seeking culture...and thus, the command was given!
“I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.” Vs 16, 17

D. What is a servant?

- “then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:2-4**
1. A servant serves to an audience of One!
 2. A servant’s motivation must be love.
 3. A servant gives without expecting a return.
 4. A servant serves those in his/her world...family, work, school, church, etc.

5. A servant is eager to hear about other peoples’ days without monopolizing the conversation about their own. A servant is a listener.
6. A servant develops a “pay it forward” mindset.
7. A servant does not place different values on different people but is open to serve all.
8. A servant encourages others.
9. A servant thinks you, not me.
10. A servant acts with humility.
11. A servant is more concerned for his responsibilities than his rights.
12. A servant is trustworthy and willing to be accountable.
“But be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve Him. Think of all the wonderful things He has done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:24
“Anyone who wants to serve Me must follow Me, because My servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves Me.” John 12:26
“The greatest among you must be a servant.” Matthew 23:11

E. Jesus’ example of servanthood...

- “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:5-8*
1. *“...did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage...”* Servants do not let their attitude, their gifts, or their skills get in the way of serving!
 2. *“...He made Himself nothing...”* Servants choose not to act as if they are entitled, but rather to serve.
 3. *“...taking the very nature of a servant...”* Servants continue to serve and develop the very nature of serving.
 4. *“...being made in human likeness...”* We must identify with those we serve...we empathize with those we serve.
 5. *“...And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”* Serving may take us to places where we don’t exactly wish to serve, but obedience is always worth it!

“The greatest among you must be a servant.” Matthew 23:11