

## Humble Service

### Scripture

"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." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also [my] hands and [my] head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash [his] feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for [so] I am. "If I then, [your] Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (John 13:5-17 NKJV)

### Commentary

Jesus gave all of us an example to follow. While it is easy to read this passage and say, "Amen," it is difficult to live in true humility. We are likely to have Peter's reaction which sprang from pride.

Peter had elevated Jesus as a teacher and so Jesus should be given the greatest honor, but it seems likely that Peter saw himself as superior to others because of his close association with Jesus. Evidence of this kind of thinking is seen in the disciple's clamoring for position. ". . . [T]here was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest." (Luke 22:24 NKJV)

Whether you are a pastor, teacher, husband, or parent there is always the temptation to claim/demand respect. Guard against this sin by remembering to be a servant to your congregation, classmates, spouse and children. It's true they have a responsibility to honor their authorities, but it's your responsibility to be a servant and not a lord.

### Prayer

Father, help us to server one another in a spirit of humility. Let us, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2 NKJV) We want to follow your example of service so we ask that you provide grace sufficient for this day, amen.