

The Trouble with FootWashing

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #54)

John 13:21-30

"I have looked up this girl's dossier, and I am horrified at what I find. Not only is she a Christian, but what a Christian. A vile, sneaking, simpering, demure, monosyllabic, mouse-like, watery, insignificant, virginal, bread and butter miss. She's a little brute. She makes me vomit. She sneaks through the very pages of the dossier. It drives me mad the way the world has worsened. We have had her sort in the arena in the old days. That's what her sort is made for." (Screwtape Letters)

A. With his simple and humble service of foot washing, Jesus confronts us with life's two basic choices...

1. The first choice is to "accept" Jesus' invitation (cf. John 13:14)
2. The second choice is to "reject" Jesus' invitation and do our own thing
3. The trouble is, so many people fail to understand the implications and consequences associated with their decision or failure to make one...

JESUS' DEEP TROUBLE (13:21)

A. It can be encouraging to know Jesus is depressed

B. Jesus tells us why: "One of you is going to turn me in"

"Now is the judgment of the world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out."
(12:31)

C. The disciples are still puzzled about what Jesus was talking about...

THE TROUBLE OF CONFUSION (13:22)

A. With Jesus' announcement, the disciples must have also been deeply troubled

1. Judas appears to be the perfect "conman"
2. The disciples response is winsome, and a testimony to Jesus' leadership:
3. True disciples know there is no sin they are incapable of committing...

B. It's a reminder for disciples to come to Jesus in confession and prayer

THE TROUBLE OF UNCERTAINTY (13:23-25)

A. There were two places of honor - one on the host's right, one on the host's left

1. John is sitting next to Jesus on the right, leaning on Jesus

"No one has ever seen God, but God the Only Son, who is right at the Father's heart, he has explained God" (John 1:18)

2. On the left of Jesus is...Judas. Judas?!

3. This is one last attempt by Jesus: "*Don't do this, Judas., it is not too late*"

- a. It's an amazing appeal of divine love to a dark heart of evil
- b. It's an amazing testimony of how God works quietly

THE TROUBLE OF BETRAYAL (13:26-30)

A. Satan's "takeover" doesn't happen until after Judas turns his back on Jesus

1. Principle: Every choice you make implies the rejection of other choices
2. The reverse also seems true: every rejection of something/someone implies the acceptance of something/someone else

"When a person ceases to believe in God, he doesn't then believe in nothing, he believes in anything" (Os Guinness)

3. We don't get to sit on the fence: if you don't turn to Jesus, you turn to Satan

B. Jesus issues a command. Jesus is Lord, even of the demonic - "Do it quickly!"

1. The will of the devil will be done by this one possessed man that evening
2. The will of the Father will be done by One obedient Son the next afternoon

C. Why Judas? Why?

1. Betrayal is always an inside-outside matter
2. Betrayal is always done in the face of Christ's love
3. Betrayal is always supported by a stubborn will

D. 12:30 - "...and it was night." Closure.

1. It will get darker before it gets light...you know the rest of Judas' story
2. Foot washing brings out the best in us; and it brings out the worst
 - a. Jesus came into a dark world; that's where the church is planted
 - b. Truth is, the church is to shine the light of Jesus into the darkness