

November 4, 2018

Jesus is my Lord!



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

I Corinthians 13:4-7

On the night before his death on the cross our Lord met with his disciples for one last meal. As they came in and took their seats around the table God's Son did something that must have shocked them all. He took a towel and a basin of water and he went to each of of these men and washed their feet. He even washed the feet of the one who would betray him.

After he had taken his place at the table he said to them, ***"Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. You also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."***

As we have often noted, it was the task of the youngest and least important of the servants in any man's house to wash the feet of any visitors who came to the home. As his followers gathered at this final meal with their Master not one of them had volunteered to wash the feet of the others. I would imagine it did not even occur to them.

They were not there to serve each other. They were the twelve, the chosen ones. Such a low service would not have crossed their minds. So, when Jesus began to wash their feet they resisted. But Jesus did this lowly service for them to teach them, and us, a valuable lesson. If Jesus is our Lord then we are here not to be served by others, but to serve others.

Our Lord and Master came to serve and he calls us to become servant-minded; literally to have the same attitude as he had; to count others better than ourselves. So, when Jesus gives his disciples a single new command it is this, ***"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."***

And, he tells us that this kind of love, this selfless, servant love for others will be the indelible mark of our discipleship.

So, if Jesus is my Lord, I must learn to selflessly serve others. As the Apostle Paul will teach me through his beautiful description of love in action, I must be patient and kind. I must hold on to my temper, give up my rage and erase my record of wrongs. I cannot be envious, I cannot be boastful, I cannot be proud or rude or self-seeking. I can only rejoice in the truth and never in evil. I must always protect others, always trust that God is at work in my world, always hope that good will ultimately win, and never ever give up.

I cannot live like the world. I can never come to believe that the evil men do is acceptable. I must choose, over and over again, to love as Jesus loved. When I live selfless service before my world that world will indeed come to know that Jesus is my Lord.