

OUR MODEL FOR MINISTRY

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July 2, 2017

John 13:1-17

1. John wrote, "...the one who says he abides in Him (Jesus) ought himself to walk (in this world) in the same manner as He walked." 1 John 2:6
 2. When the above is true we can have confidence about our relationship with Christ.
"By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world." 1 John 4:17
 3. Peter summarized Jesus ministry on earth when he said, "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and **how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil**; for God was with Him." Acts 10:38
- NOTE: Jesus is our example of what a Spirit-filled life and ministry will look like, consequently we need examine more than just what He said. We might ask:
- a. What did He say and how did He say it?
 - b. What did He do and how did He do it?
 - c. To whom was He speaking, and how did that affect His tone of voice?
 - d. Towards whom was He acting, and how did that determine His approach?
4. If we walk in the same manner as Jesus walked what characterized His life will characterize ours.
 - a. God's anointing and power will be upon us (We cannot walk as Christ walked apart from God's enablement and power).
 - b. We will go about doing good.
 - c. We will be used of God to deliver people who are oppressed by the devil.
 5. Over the next several weeks we are going to look at the issues Jesus raised and taught about during the last hours of His earthly ministry just prior to His arrest and crucifixion.
 6. In John 13-16 we have a detailed account of what Jesus discussed and taught during the Last Supper.
 7. In the passage we are looking at today Jesus modeled what we might term intentional ministry.

I. Jesus got up.

- A. He and His disciples were observing the Passover.
 - B. Jesus was filling a dual role-that of host and teacher.
 - C. At some point during the meal Jesus "got up from supper."
 - D. There was a need He intended to fulfill.
 - There was no servant present to perform the menial task of washing the disciple's feet. (Note that this was a normal courtesy extended to invited guests and those who might enter a home.)
 - E. Had Jesus remained seated at the table the need would have gone unmet because it would never have occurred to any of the disciples to do what Jesus did.
 - F. Jesus saw the need and was willing to meet the need.
- NOTE: There is a difference between seeing needs and meeting needs.
- G. Are we ready and willing to get up; ready and willing to be used of God to do whatever needs to be done? Do we see ourselves as servants?

II. Jesus got prepared.

- A. He laid aside His outer garments that identified Him as a teacher.
- B. He wrapped Himself with a towel like a servant would.
- C. He poured water into a basin.
- D. Jesus had made preparation for what He intended to do, and we need to learn from His example-intentional ministry calls for planning and preparation.

III. Jesus got down.

- A. He humbled Himself and assumed the role of a servant.
- B. He did what needed to be done.
- C. He overcame Peter's reluctance to be ministered to.
NOTE: Sadly many refuse to allow God to minister to them through the body of Christ-that through which Jesus works and ministers.
- D. He also used Peter's reluctance to teach additional spiritual truth.
NOTE: Once we have been washed in the blood of Christ we only need to deal with issues related to daily defilement.

APPLICATION

1. In verses 12-17 Jesus made sure His disciples understood what He was trying to teach them.
 - a. He reassumed His role as Teacher and Lord.
 - b. He told them that they needed to relate to one another as servants.
 - c. He told them that they needed to follow His example.
 - d. He pointed out that a failure to assume the role of a servant was to exalt themselves above Him.
 - e. He stressed the fact that knowing was not enough; they needed to do what He had done.
 - f. With active obedience would come God's blessing.
2. What intentional ministry might God want to perform through you?
3. Are you:
 - a. Willing to get up and do whatever needs to be done?
 - b. Willing to make whatever preparations need to be made?
 - c. Willing to get down and assume the role of a servant?
4. Is there a need that you are already aware of?
5. As I was editing and adding to this message the following characteristic related to Jesus came to mind.
6. He manifested awareness, approachability, authority, and accuracy (He accurately interpreted and applied God's Word.
7. We would do well to compare ourselves to Jesus in all four areas.