

★ As I Have Done to You ★

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 6

The Example of Christ

So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

—John 13:12-15

We have learned about many things Jesus did for other people. He healed people who could not see. He healed people who could not walk. Jesus loved people very much! His disciples went everywhere with Jesus and saw Him do many miracles. The Bible tells us that the disciples were with Jesus about three years. In this story we are going to learn about the last time that the disciples spent the Passover with Jesus. The Bible says that after Jesus and the disciples ate dinner, Jesus began to wash the disciples' feet. Jesus wanted to teach the disciples something. Jesus said "... that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). If we have asked Jesus to be our Savior, we should try to do what Jesus did.

As I Have Done: Example of Servitude

Sometimes we are asked to do something that we don't really want to do. Sometimes we do not have a good attitude when we must do things that we should. Jesus did not complain at all when He washed the disciples' feet. Jesus did not tell everyone how good He was for washing their feet. He quietly did what He was supposed to do. He was glad to wash their feet because He loved them very much.

When Jesus was alive, people walked everywhere. There were no cars or bikes. There were no planes or trains. Everyone probably had very dirty feet. It was probably not very fun for Jesus to wash everyone's feet. But He did it without complaining. Can you imagine Jesus, God's Son, washing people's feet? Jesus was very humble. He did not think He was too good to wash their feet even though it was a "dirty" task.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

—John 13:16, 17

The only time Jesus used the word *happy* in the New Testament is in the passage we just read! Jesus was saying that the only way to be happy is to be a servant. But in order to be a servant for Jesus you need to know Jesus.

As I Have Loved: Example for Identification

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

—John 13:34, 35

The book of Romans tells us that nothing can separate us from God's love. God loves us unconditionally. That means that God loves us no matter what we have done and no matter what happens.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

—Romans 5:8

God loves us so much that He let His only Son die for us so that we could have a home in Heaven. Even though we are sinners, God still loves us! The Bible says "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). That means that no one loves us more than Jesus does because He died for us. It is very good to know that Jesus loves us. No matter what bad things we may do, Jesus still loves us. We should always try to do right, but when we fail, God forgives us and still loves us.

As I Have Kept: Example of Obedience

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

—John 15:10

Even though Jesus was God, He was obedient to the will God had for Him. There were many times in the Bible when Jesus made decisions to do what God wanted Him to even when it may not have been what Jesus wanted to do. Sometimes we may have to do things that we don't want to do, but we need to be obedient to what God wants us to do. If Jesus could be obedient, we can too.

Conclusion

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

—John 13:15

Jesus gave us many example of the way we need to live. He showed us how to be obedient, how to love, and how to serve. There is an old gospel song that says, "I want to be a little more like Jesus every day..." If we have Jesus as our Savior, we should try to be like Him and do the things that He did. Jesus was God, but He was a servant to people to show them He loved them. And He obeyed His Father's will even though He had to die to show He loved us. Jesus was a good example for us to follow. We should try to be like Him so that we can be a good example to those who will follow us!