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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

JESUS – OUR EXAMPLE IN HUMILITY

In John 13 Jesus and His disciples are gathered together to partake of the Jewish Passover meal. Following the meal, Jesus girds Himself with a towel, pours water in a basin and begins to wash the feet of His disciples. Jesus was not instituting an act of worship on this occasion. He teaches His disciples a lesson on humility. Jesus asked His disciples, "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 13:12-17).

On another occasion Jesus calls a little child and sets him in the midst of the disciples and tells them, "...Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4). Humility is absolutely essential to entering the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus did not just teach the necessity of humility, "...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). He demonstrated what genuine humility is by a practical application of it in His own life. True humility requires a willingness to empty oneself of pride, to put aside self-interest and to sacrifice for the benefit of others. Jesus humbled Himself even to the point of death in order to provide through His shed blood the forgiveness of sins. To receive the benefits of our Lord's humility, we must follow His example and humble ourselves in obedience to what He commands for salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9; Mark 16:15-16).

Humility is necessary to becoming a Christian, but the exercise of humility must continue in the Christian's life. As the "Elect of God" one must "put on...humility" (Colossians 3:12) and as servants of Christ we must be showing "humility to all men" (Titus 3:2), and "be clothed with humility for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

Are you following the example of Jesus in humility? "Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).