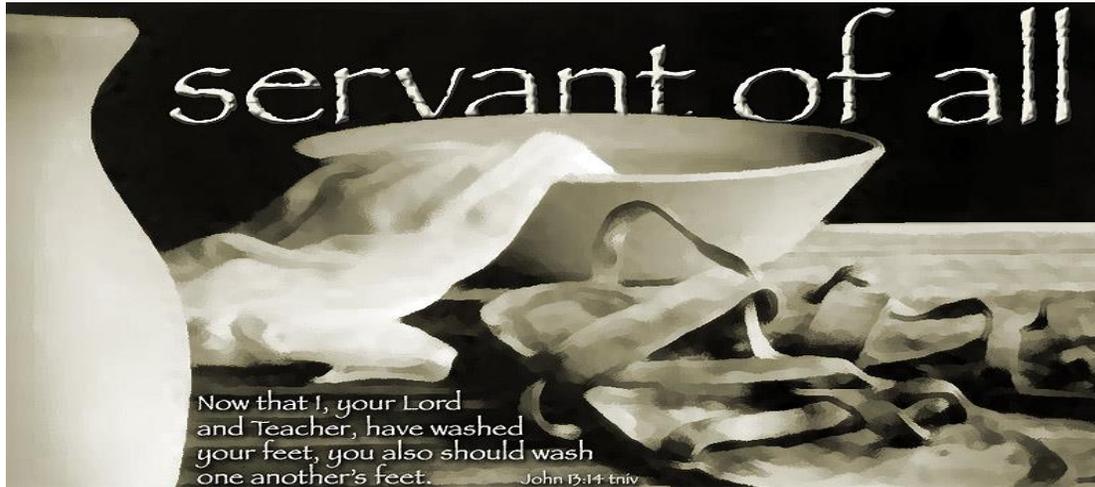


John 13 1-20

Theme: New King in the Temple



In these passages we see Jesus washing the feet of his disciples in full knowledge of his imminent betrayal. The gesture, a sort of role reversal, came as a shock to Peter and others as they viewed Jesus as the Master and themselves as the servant.

Jesus addressed their concerns by saying 3 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Verse 16 is particularly interesting, it begs the question who is the servant and who is the master. Here Jesus shows us what it means to be in humble service of others regardless of your station in life. Further, the act of washing feet including that of his betrayer is really an act of extraordinary love considering where the betrayal is to lead. At the end he asks the disciples to "do as I have done for you," in essence to love each other through service to others. We are called to do likewise.

After reading these passages, people often try to think of the most humble thing they can do to show that they are humble. But that's just our way of trying to be great by appearing humble. The better thing to do is to ask ourselves, "If I wasn't so worried about how people would think less of me- what could I do that would be a genuine blessing to someone else?"