



+ **YOU**

**Sermon Series: Living Life Connected to Christ**

**To be used with Session 1:**

A Life of Humble Service

**Sermon Title Possibilities:**

Don't Be Pompous

**Scripture: John 13:3-10,14-16**

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study “Living Life Connected to Christ,” this sermon uses the opposite of humility, calling for each listener to put aside their pride or pompous ways.

**Introduction:** About six days before the Passover, Jesus was dining at the house of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. During or after the meal, Mary took a very costly oil of spikenard and anointed Jesus’s feet and wiped them with her hair. After this act of humility, Jesus left Bethany and journeyed into Jerusalem with His disciples to spend the Passover in the city of David.

### **1. Consider Christ’s Model (vv. 3-5)**

In the ancient Near East, sandals were the regular footwear. The open nature of the sandals, in conjunction with the dusty roads, made it necessary for basins of water and towels to be ready for travelers to wash their feet. For those who had the means, slaves were positioned at the entrance, prepared to loosen the straps of the sandals, and wash each guest’s feet. This practice is of great importance because of the actions of Jesus Christ in this passage.

Jesus knew who He was, the Eternal Son who had come from the Father. He knew that He was God in human flesh, and His Father had committed all judgment (5:22), all authority (17:2), and the disciples to Him (17:8). Knowing all this did not prevent Christ from exhibiting an attitude of humility. Taking on the posture of a slave, He did not allow His status or ability to prevent Him from performing this humble act. After eating the meal, Christ rose from eating and began to wash each of His disciples’ feet.

Believing you are more than what you are can be devastating! Yet, understanding who you are in Christ and choosing to serve your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is invigorating!

### **2. Comprehend Christ’s Message (vv. 6-10)**

Amid modeling His teaching that all who desired to be first will be last and servant of all, one of His disciples Simon Peter questioned Jesus’s washing of his feet. The Lord told this disciple that the meaning is not apparent but will

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become clear to him. With a pompous attitude Peter declared that the Master will never wash his feet.

Peter's response showed that He did not comprehend Jesus's message. Peter wanted to show Jesus that the thought of the Master washing his feet was unthinkable. Yet, Jesus needed Peter to understand that without His washing or cleansing Peter would have no part with Him.

When Peter comprehended the whole message, Peter changed his tune. We need Jesus to mold us and make us into the disciples He desires us to be. We need His washing!

### **3. Carryout Christ's Mandate (vv. 14-16)**

Jesus got to the heart of His illustration. He told the disciples that if He, the Lord and Teacher, willingly washed their feet, they should wash one another's feet. He commanded them to serve each other in the body of Christ by following His example. The Lord was not advocating having foot washing services but was providing His church with a foundational mandate. Christians are called to serve each other as He served them.

With this statement, some may be thinking that they are exempt from this mandate. Jesus made it clear that those who are servants and those sent are not greater than the master or the one who sent them. If Christ being Lord humbled Himself, we must follow His example and serve one another in the body of Christ.

**Conclusion:** The Bible states, "Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall" (Prov.16:18). Pride will keep you from doing what is right. This is the precise reason Jesus called for everyone that comes to Him to first deny self. Do not let pride be your downfall. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand, and He will exalt you in the right season (1 Pet. 5:6).

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