



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 143 - The King Stoops Low (John 13-17)

Foot-washing King

Actions speak louder than words, right? Jesus certainly thought so. Stooping down to do a slave's work, Jesus taught His disciples a lesson that would stick with them.

- Why was Peter so displeased with Jesus wanting to wash his feet?
- Think back to your youth and the dreams you had for your life. Did you aspire to live this kind of servant life?
- What are some kinds of "foot-washing" you do as a spouse, parent, neighbor, employee or employer?

Along with giving His disciples an example to serve each other, Jesus was reaching out to Judas in a special, memorable way, assuring him that he could be cleansed and restored, even after he had betrayed Jesus. Sadly, Judas didn't recall this loving demonstration when the guilt of his sin struck so hard.

The Only Way to the Father

Jesus made a bold and important claim at this Last Supper, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). He leaves no room to squeeze in Mohammed, Buddha or our own wisdom and works.

- Why do people want to believe there are other paths to reach heaven besides faith in Jesus Christ?
- How does the fact that Jesus is God's only-begotten Son give an undeniable credibility to His statement?
- When we humble ourselves and trust in Jesus' alone, what great comfort does Jesus' statement give?

I Am the Vine

Jesus compares our relationship with Him to the branches of a grapevine. Unless we remain in Him through faith, we will find ourselves powerless to serve others or do anything pleasing to God the Father.

- How does this show the importance of reading the Bible frequently and worshipping regularly?

Jesus said the Father is the vinedresser who "prunes every branch in Me that it may bear more fruit." God does this through the trials and struggles we face in life, which turn us from faithless self-reliance to a faith that clings to Him alone for our help and support.

- How has God used the struggles in your life to prepare you to better understand and serve those around you?

The Hour Has Come

Twice before, Jesus told His family and friends "My time has not yet come" (John 2:4; 7:6, 8). Now we hear the ominous words, "Father, the hour has come." And yet Jesus doesn't speak of His death as a dark, dreadful thing; instead, He prays, "glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You." He will now glorify God as He completes the work He came to do, even while He is taunted, tormented and nailed to a Roman cross, a cross normally associated with guilt and shame.

- How can we bring glory to God when experiencing trials and struggles in our lives?
- How can we glorify God when facing a terminal illness like cancer?