

## **The Hour Approaches**

**Read:** John 13:1-20

**Main idea:** True greatness in the eyes of God is defined not by power or authority, but by the willingness to humbly serve others with love.

**Key Verses:** "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." (**John 13:14-15 ESV**)

### **Key Principles:**

- Jesus' love leading up to His darkest hour reveals His humility, inviting us to trust Him with our cleansing.
- No one is above serving and no one is below being served.
- Jesus' service overcomes evil's schemes, calling us to repent and stand firm in His mission.
- Faith in Jesus' example prepares us to serve humbly, growing our walk with God.
- His washing points to the cross, demanding repentance from self-reliance for grace.
- Atonement empowers us to love others, fostering community through humble service.
- Jesus doesn't call us to a life of leisure but of humility and labor.

### **Discussion:**

1. How does Jesus' love in washing feet show trust in God's plan? Where do you struggle to trust Him with your burdens?
2. Why is Jesus's washing the feet of his disciples not a denial of his character as Master?
3. How would you respond if Jesus were to wash your feet? What makes it hard for you to let Jesus cleanse you? How can faith in His sacrifice steady you against self-reliance?
4. Do you find it hard to serve people you view as undeserving? Would you have washed Judas's feet? Why does Jesus?
5. Jesus calls us to serve as He did (v.14-15)—where do you see pride blocking your service? How might humble love transform a relationship in your life?
6. How has serving others deepened your walk with God? What's one step you could take to follow His pattern this week?

### **Prayer:**

- Pray that you would embrace Christ's humble love and cleansing in faith.
- Pray for:
  - Hearts to trust Jesus' cleansing, letting go of pride and shame.
  - Courage to love our enemies and serve those who oppose us.
  - Grace to follow His example, deepening our love for God and each other.

**The Hour of Humble Love**  
John 13:1-20

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|-------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b><u>Trust</u> the humble love that <u>cleanses</u> you.</b>     | <b>13:1-8</b>   |
| 1.          | <u>Marvel</u> at His love's <u>depth</u> .                        | 13:1-5          |
| 2.          | <u>Submit</u> to His cleansing <u>work</u> .                      | 13:6-8          |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b><u>Stand</u> in the humble love that <u>covers</u> you.</b>    | <b>13:9-11</b>  |
| 1.          | <u>Rest</u> in His finished <u>cleansing</u> .                    | 13:9-10         |
| 2.          | <u>Recognize</u> His sovereign <u>choice</u> .                    | 13:11           |
| <b>III.</b> | <b><u>Serve</u> with the humble love that <u>compels</u> you.</b> | <b>13:12-20</b> |
| 1.          | <u>Imitate</u> His <u>example</u> .                               | 13:12-17        |
| 2.          | <u>Embrace</u> His <u>mission</u> .                               | 13:18-20        |

NEXT WEEK:  
**The Hour of Rise Glory**  
John 20:1-18