



WEEK 3 HANDOUT – **The Son's Role as Servant/Shepherd** BAND of BROTHERS SPRING/2021

Key Verse: *"I did not come to judge the world but to save the world."* – John 12:47 ESV

- **Triumphal Entry**

- A crowd from Bethany was worshiping God because of his glory
 - Shouting Hosanna!
 - Prophecy fulfilled
 - Everyone was believing in him

"Look, the world has gone after him." – John 12:19 ESV

- Religious Leaders were set on killing Jesus
 - Jesus knew of the pain and suffering he was to endure for humanity
 - Death and Satan defeated
 - God's wrath would be satisfied
 - The free gift of redemption would be available

- **Signs and wonders**

- Jesus had left the crowd from the end of Chapter 11
- We're told that Jesus performed many signs and wonders among them, but they still refused to believe in him

"When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him..." – John 12:36-37 ESV

- Fulfills the prophecy in **Isaiah 53:1**

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” – John 12:38 ESV

- The people did not believe after seeing **“SO MANY”** signs and wonders
- Jesus has accused the crowds of only seeking signs and wonders in the past

*“Unless you **see signs and wonders** you will not believe.” – John 4:48 ESV*

- We have seen this before in the gospel of John

“He came to his own, and his own people did not receive Him.” – John 1:11 ESV

*“Though he had done **so many** signs before them, they still did not believe in him...” – John 12:37 ESV*

*“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have **not seen and yet have believed.**” – John 20:28-29 ESV*

- The crowd was choosing darkness over light

*“God’s light came into the world, but people loved **the darkness** more than **the light**, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.” – John 3:19-20 NLT*

- They couldn’t believe because their hearts were hardened
 - John uses Isaiah’s prophecy to show that this rejection was inevitable
 - No sign could change their minds
 - John reveals this is the handiwork of God

*“But the Lord **hardened the heart** of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.” – Exodus 9:12*

*“Their disbelief, pre-ordained by God, was part of his redemptive plan. It was essential that Jesus be rejected and, ultimately, crucified because His death was absolutely necessary if mankind was to have any hope of escaping future judgement.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Gospel of John**

- Most people continued to disbelieve
- They could not believe that Jesus was offering a means of being made right

- **Jesus cries out**

- Jesus desperately wants everyone to hear what he is saying (We should listen as well)

ἔκραξεν – **krazo** – The cry or shriek of a raven, to exclaim, intreat

- He is screaming because he wants everyone to know and believe what a life with him is like

*“...whoever believes in him **may have eternal life.**”* – John 3:15 ESV

*“...whoever believes in him **should not perish but have eternal life.**”* – John 3:16 ESV

*“Whoever believes in him **is not condemned...**”* – John 3:18 ESV

*“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me **shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**”* – John 6:35 ESV

*“Whoever believes in me, **though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.**”* – John 11:25-26 ESV

- Jesus adds to the perks of believing in Christ by focusing on his unity with God

*“The one who believes in me believes not in me, but **him who sent me.** And the one who sees me sees **him who sent me.**”* – John 12:44-45 ESV

- Hypostatic Union
- Expressing belief in Him is actually expressing belief in God because God sent him
- John places this verse directly after saying some believed but were too scared to show it

*“**Many did believe** in him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees **they did not confess him**, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue.”* – John 12:42 NLT

- The crowds were fearful of man
- They would rather have right standing with man than right standing with God
- They failed to see the unity between Jesus and God
 - Jesus and God are one
 - To see Jesus is to see God
- In this moment, Jesus was boldly declaring His identity as the Son of God

- **Why Jesus came**

"I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." – John 12:46 ESV

- These people needed to understand they were living in spiritual darkness
- They were separated from God because of their sin
- They believed they could satisfy that separation by living up to the law

*"Now it is evident that **no one is justified before God by the law**, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" – Galatians 3:11 ESV*

*"For **no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands**. The law simply shows us how sinful we are." – Romans 3:20 NLT*

- Jesus did not come into the world to show us our sin, he came into the world to cleanse us of our sin and forgive them

*"If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; **for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.**" – John 12:47 ESV*

- Jesus is getting this command from God
- These words are not his own, but God's

*"For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment – what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, **therefore I say as the Father has told me.**" – John 12:49-50*

- **Jesus washes the disciples' feet**

- Jesus knew his time was near
- At a supper with his disciples (The Last Supper)
- Judas was going to betray Jesus later, but Jesus already knew

*"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and **began to wash the disciples feet...**" – John 13:3-5 ESV*

- Jesus visibly and purposefully puts himself in the position of a servant
- Willingly washes the feet of the disciples
 - Washed the feet of Judas, the man who was going to betray him

*“The Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Matthew 20:28 ESV*

- More was going on here
 - o Greek word for “laid down” is the same word found in John 13:38 & 10:11

*“Will you **lay down** your life for me?” – John 13:38 ESV*

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down** his life for the sheep.” – John 10:11 ESV*

- The imagery of Jesus laying down his life for us is playing itself out at the last supper here in John 13
 - o The disciples do not understand what is happening
 - o Peter refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet because he is embarrassed for Jesus

“If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” – John 13:8 ESV

- Jesus wasn’t simply talking about having clean feet, but rather being spiritually clean
 - o Similar to being “born again” or being “born from above” in John 3
 - o Peter does not understand what Jesus is talking about
 - The disciples would be hard pressed to fully understand what was happening
 - Understanding would come when the Holy Spirit descended

*“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, 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 also should do just as I have done to you.” – John 13:13-15 ESV*

- Jesus was providing the disciples with a perfect description of his coming death on the cross
 - o He was going to relinquish his divine rights and humbly sacrifice his life

*“Who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself. By taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross!**” – Philippians 2:6-8 ESV*

- **What to do with Jesus’ example**

- Disciples most likely thought Jesus was just talking about washing feet, but they did not understand what was coming in a few days’ time
 - o Jesus calls the disciples to follow his example of being a servant

*“I tell you the truth, **slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.** Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.” – John 13:16-17 NLT*

- To wrap all of this up Jesus returns to the same message that he was crying out in the beginning of chapter 12

*“I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger, is welcoming me, and **anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.**” – John 13:20*

- Jesus and God are one
 - Through all this Jesus was showing us that he did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many

- **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- Discuss what kinds of things keep us from following Jesus’ example of selfless, sacrificial service to others. What kinds of things prevent us from serving others as he did?
- What is significant about the fact that Jesus washed the feet of Judas, the one who was going to betray him? What can we learn from His example?
- Discuss what it meant for Jesus assumed the position of a servant in order to wash the disciples’ feet. How should His example apply to us in everyday life?