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**Series:** God's Character

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## HUMBLE

One time I was at an airport. I decided to treat myself to a Starbucks Frappucino and a chocolate chip cookie. I felt I deserved it. So, I bought them.

I got the drink and the cookie and went to the gate and waited for a while before boarding my flight. I was standing there and enjoying my drink. Oh, I was feeling good, drinking and eating. After a short while, I put my cookie down. I decided to take off the lid so I could mix the whip cream into my drink. So, I took the lid off and threw it away. I continued to enjoy my drink. There were other people looking at me, and they knew I was enjoying my drink! Life was great!

All of a sudden...the drink fell out of my hand! In shock, I watched it fall on the floor. It splattered all over the floor and some of it landed on me. I was shocked. I looked around and noticed that several people had witnessed this. A couple people gave me their napkins and I tried my best to clean up the mess. A custodian came by and helped me clean. Oh, I was embarrassed. And, I was humbled at that moment.

God will do that to us sometimes. He wants Christians to remain humble. That is God's character. God is humble. Jesus, God's Son, demonstrated God's humility in the Bible story we will learn from in this sermon. Jesus truly portrayed God's humility in John 13:1-17. Here's John 13:1-17 from the ASL Bible:

*"It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

*The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'*

*Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'*

*'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.'*

*Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'*

*'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'*

*Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.'"*

Jesus gave us a beautiful example of God's humility. Verse 3 says, *"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God..."* Jesus had God's power and had come from God. This shows that Jesus is God.

Jesus didn't show God's humility only through what He said. He showed humility through what He DID. As we saw in John 13 in the ASL Bible, Jesus poured water into a basin and washed His disciples feet. He even dried their feet with His towel!

Really, it should've been the disciples washing Jesus' feet. Jesus is our King. He is our Lord. He is our Savior. We should wash HIS feet. The disciples should've washed Jesus feet. Jesus could have acted pious. As Lord, King, and Savior, Jesus could have expected His disciples to wash His feet. But, instead He served us. Jesus washed His disciples feet! And, remember, He did more than just wash their feet...He even dried their feet!

That is an amazing act of humility. Jesus demonstrated God's humility. Then, Jesus shared powerful words about humility. In verses 14 to 16, Jesus said, *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."*

Jesus encouraged His disciples to follow His example of humility. We should follow His example and be humble, too.

Mark Scott, Academic Dean at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri, has an excellent definition for humility – thinking of yourself less (not thinking less of yourself). Humility is

thinking of yourself less. It means thinking of others more. That's what Jesus did. He thought about Himself less. He thought about others more than Himself.

One time, my wife told me to sit down. I was a bit confused at first and wondered why. She left the room and brought back a big bowl with hot water. She also had a towel. She instructed me to put my feet into the bowl. Then, she washed my feet. Oh, it felt great! In fact, I felt like Peter in John 13, when he said, *"Wash my hands and my head, too."*

Seriously, it not only felt great. My wife demonstrated her humility to me. She served me. She also demonstrated her love and care for me. Her actions were more powerful than any words she could express! She truly followed Jesus' example of humility.

You can do the same. Follow the example Jesus set. Show your humility through your actions, because actions speak louder than words.

Are you married? Wash your spouse's feet.

How about your parents? Why not wash their feet? Honor them.

Do you have children? Wash their feet. Be careful, they might giggle because it will feel good for them.

Do you have a preacher? Wash his feet. Demonstrate humility and support to your preacher by washing his feet.

Are you a preacher? Do you have members in your congregation? Wash their feet. If you have elders that are accountable for you, wash their feet and demonstrate your humility and support them as they serve.

Do you have a best friend? Wash his feet.

If you wash another person's feet, they will be blessed. They will see humility in action. Remember, action speaks louder than words.

You will be blessed, too. Jesus said in John 13:17, *"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for your Son, Jesus, and His wonderful demonstration of humility. Help us to demonstrate humility to others, too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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