

# **Humility: Foundation for Service [John 3:1-30] — 42 minutes**

## Transition (1 Minute)

- 1) Children to TS & Greeting

## Introduction (7 Minutes)

- 1) Context
- 2) Scripture – John 13:1-31

## Main Body (24 Minutes)

Main Point: Following Jesus' example, we should serve others in True Humility

<sup>15</sup> *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you [John 13:15]*

- 1) Encouragement #1 – Guard your heart as you seek to understand God's True Humility (7 minutes)
- 2) Encouragement #2 – Look to Jesus as the Ultimate Example of True Humility (7 minutes)
- 3) Encouragement #3 – Model Jesus as you serve others in True Humility (7 minutes)

## Conclusion (4 Minutes)

- 1) Final Exhortations
- 2) Invitation to Respond

## Prayer & Transition (1 Minute)

- 1) Lead to "The Lord's Supper"

## Humility: Foundation for Service [John 3:1-30] — 42 minutes

### TRANSITION & INTRODUCTION – 8 minutes

Greeting & Welcome: Dismissal of Children to TS & Words of Greeting

- 1) Good morning. Our children are dismissed to the care of our Transformation Station team.
- 2) My name is John Reddy. It's my privilege to serve as one of the Pastors here at Redemption Hill Church.

Context:

- 1) This morning, we'll continue our journey through the Gospel of John as we learn to "Believe & Live".
- 2) Two weeks ago, we encountered Mary, the sister of Lazarus, as she worshipped Jesus through the extravagant act of anointing him with a year's worth of aromatic oil and then humbly wiping his feet with her hair in an act of love and deep devotion.
- 3) Last week, as the plots to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus gained momentum amongst the religious and political leaders of Jerusalem – even as the crowds were hailing Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna", Jesus realizes that the hour of his crucifixion is drawing near – the purpose for which He had come.
- 4) And so, it is at this point that the Apostle John slows down his story-telling and spends the rest of this gospel looking intensely at a relatively short period of time.
- 5) Up to this point, John has been reporting all of the signs would indicate that Jesus is the Messiah. And, after each event, Jesus "unpacks" the meaning and significance. After all, this gospel is a missionary gospel – one meant to be shared with others that they might believe in Jesus and live – just as some of the original witnesses to his signs and teachings did.
- 6) But now, John switches the order of his story-telling.
- 7) Like any person confronted with their "last days", words and instructions given by Jesus take on more weight, more significance, more "gravitas". And so, John offers a number of discourses or detailed teaching and instruction from Jesus to his inner circle of followers or disciples in anticipation of the climax of redemptive history.
- 8) After these discourses, John begins to narrate what we have come to call – *The Passion of the Christ* – the critical days and hours leading up to the crucifixion, death, and eventual resurrection of Jesus.
- 9) This is where our Scripture reading this morning picks up in Chapter 13.
- 10) Let me set the stage and setting for us:
  - a) The Jewish feast of Passover is nearing so Jesus and his disciples are gathered for an evening supper.
  - b) Compared to our American culture, their seating style is a bit unusual for they are seated in a typical Greco-Roman celebration arrangement – low table, mats on the floor...
  - c) Eating with a group that included The Twelve, including Peter and including Judas, Jesus does something that shocks them – and sets in motion the events of his final days before he hangs on a Roman cross.

11) So with that in mind... let's read from John's Gospel, Chapter 13, verses 1-30 [Pew Bible p \_\_\_\_]:

- a) <sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- b) <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper.
- c) He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
- d) <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."
- e) <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."
- f) <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."
- g) <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."
- h) <sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.
- i) <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.  
<sup>15</sup> **For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.**
- j) <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. <sup>18</sup> I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen.
- k) But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' <sup>19</sup> I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.
- l) <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."
- m) <sup>21</sup> After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke.
- n) <sup>23</sup> One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, <sup>24</sup> so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.
- o) <sup>25</sup> So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it."
- p) So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."
- q) <sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.
- r) <sup>30</sup> So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. **And it was night.**

#### Prayer of Transition:

1) Let's bow our heads for a moment before we start.

2) Would you simply repeat after me while I pray?

a) "Heavenly Father... Speak to our hearts... and change our lives". Amen."

## MAIN BODY – Encouragement #1: Guard your heart and seek to understand God’s True Humility

(7m):

- 1) The truth is, we are all prideful souls in one way or another. And there are literally hundreds of occasions in the Word of God where God makes his opinion of pride clear. Take, for example, how “The Living Bible” puts it in Proverbs 16:5 “*Pride disgusts the LORD. Take my word for it – proud men shall be punished.*”
- 2) That’s a sobering thought given that Pride is epidemic and shows itself in each of us in many ways.
  - a) When we ignore the needs of others, we proclaim, “*My life is the most important thing: accomplishing my goals, getting my pleasure, fulfilling my needs*”.
  - b) When we fight with someone else, we make it clear, “*I have no need for a relationship with you. I will be able to accomplish what I need to without you or without unity.*”
  - c) When we hate, we put forth, “*I am better than you are, and I have a right to despise you for what you have done or what you are.*”
  - d) When we disobey, what we are really saying is, “*I know what you say and want but, I have a better way (for me).*”
- 3) Do you see a common theme in all of these statements? (pause)...
- 4) They are all about “SELF”.
- 5) I like how one author summarized this:
  - a) “Prideful people believe that they are or should be the source of what is good, right and worthy of praise. They also believe that they, by themselves, are (or should be) the *accomplisher* of anything that is worthwhile to accomplish, and that they should certainly be the *benefactor* of all things. In essence, they are believing that all things should be from them, through them, and to them or for them. Pride is competitive toward others, and especially toward God. PRIDE WANTS TO BE ON TOP.”

[From Pride to Humility, Stuart Scott]
- 6) Ultimately, pride is a form of Self-Worship! Because we are Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve, each one of us has carried the DNA that is captured in the mindset of SELF as “Master”. We focus on SELF, We serve SELF, We pursue SELF-recognition... We lift ourselves up in gross SELF-exaltation... Whether we admit it or not, we desire to control and use all things, including people, for SELF.
- 7) In our pride, we can have too high of an opinion of ourselves. We act blindly as we can seek to “domesticate” God and turn Him into our personal physician, chef, and butler because He is here for ME.
- 8) In fact, if that isn’t working for me or I don’t care to obey some or all of his desires for me, I will simply refashion him into a God of my own making.
- 9) As a result... Captured by my pride, people exist to please me, serve me, and meet my needs.
- 10) And what do they often get in return from ME, the Master of My Soul?
- 11) In return, I exist to judge them, manipulate them, or impress them with my awesomeness.
- 12) Apart from God’s Spirit, there is No Humility in SELF. For even our best attempts at not being completely self-serving are tainted with SELF.
- 13) For example, imagine if you met this person walking the streets of Medford this afternoon. What would you think? What conclusion would you draw? What would be your response?
  - a) [Show photo of Tshirt “I’m the most humble man you’ll ever meet”]
- 14) Seeing this example, my prayer should be: “Lord, help me. Save me from myself.”
- 15) Because this is a clear and present danger for all of us, my first encouragement this morning is this: “Guard your heart as you seek to understand God’s True Humility.”

- 16) For, apart from the gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are condemned to reap the natural consequences of worshipping Ourselves.
- 17) Thankfully, there is hope.
- 18) Jonathan Edwards once said, “*Nothing sets a Christian so much out of the devil’s reach than humility*”.
- 19) Why is that? Because True Humility focuses its attention on God and others, not SELF. Even a focus on others flows from a desire to love and bring more glory to God. It is a servant’s mindset that pursues the recognition and exaltation of God Himself. And with this desire comes a willingness to please God in all things and by all things He has given.
- 20) It begins with recognizing and trusting God’s character – even in times of trial and tribulation. A humble person rightly thinks of God as his Creator and himself as God’s creation. He does not even remotely see himself as qualified to pass judgment on God or what God does.
- 21) Being overwhelmed with God’s undeserved grace and goodness, humble people will want to worship God and see themselves dependent on God as a truly needy person should.
- 22) Both thankfulness and gratitude will flow from the hearts of the humble as gentleness and patience are extended to others. For the truly humble see themselves as no better than any other. In fact, in relationship to others, the truly humble will gladly submit to those in authority, prefer others over themselves, be good listeners for others, admit their faults when wrong, be thankful for correction, repent of sin as a way of life, and joyfully celebrate the accomplishments of others.
- 23) Because the truly humble have an accurate view of themselves, let me tell you what True Humility is NOT:
- True Humility is not passive or Milquetoast. Rather knowing the depth of God’s love and favor upon his children, the truly humble are people of action looking to make a great impact under God’s direction.
  - True Humility is not cowardice wrapped in pious clothing. No, humility and courage always go together. Where others melt under the life’s heat as they lean upon their own strength, those humble under God’s hand stand in awe of Him and are prepared to obey – even at their own apparent peril.
  - True Humility is not just “lip service”; where we walk around saying all the right, meek, and willing words necessary, but inside having another agenda. Humility is a matter of the heart springing into action sourced by an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father.
  - AND, True Humility is not debasing and demeaning yourself beyond recognition. Rather, it is acknowledging that each of us is made in the image of God with rich deposits of gifts and talents – all available for God’s use as acts of worship to Him through acts of service towards others.
  - I like how CS Lewis put it: “*Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less*”.
- 24) True Humility is having an accurate view of ourselves and an accurate view of God.
- For He is the source of anything that is good; He is the means whereby good is accomplished.
  - To Him, all praise and honor for anything good done in this life is due.
- 25) Our confidence, as the truly humble, is in Him and His mercy, love, and power.
- 26) And, as the recipients of that mercy, love, and power, we seek to offer it to others without condition and with great sacrifice.
- 27) If we are to receive any honor, it should be bestowed upon us by him; not self-imposed.
- 28) It’s a tall order... who among us can actually achieve that?

## **MAIN BODY – Encouragement #2: Look to Jesus as the Ultimate Example of True Humility (7m):**

Well, we know that in our midst the answer would be “no one”. So, that brings me to my second encouragement that we must “Look to Jesus as the Ultimate Example of True Humility”.

- 1) Right from the beginning of John 13, demonstrating his omniscience, Jesus “*knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father*”. He was committed to his disciples, “*having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*” Although His crucifixion was approaching, He was prepared to demonstrate that commitment through selflessness and sacrificial love.
- 2) Rather, that demonstration didn’t flow from a position of weakness, for John tells us that Jesus was certain of sovereignty and power by “*knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God*”. (verse 3).
- 3) That demonstration flowed from a profound position of humility. In fact, we can see it in operation in three remarkable ways.
- 4) First, as we read in this morning’s Opening Scripture from Philippians 2, the Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus, “*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.*” [Phil 2:6-7].
- 5) The Creator of the Universe, Jesus, willingly empties himself like a water pitcher, took on flesh, and “dwelt” among us. He humbled himself by setting aside all grandeur and experiencing the temptations, tribulations, and trials that we as “created being” experience. In all four gospels, again and again, we read about this Jesus who quite familiar with the ravages of our broken world because he willingly experienced, in the humble limits of the flesh, the full weight of homelessness, hunger, thirst, sorrow, and abandonment.
- 6) And if that were not enough, Paul’s letter to the Philippians goes on to tell us that Jesus humbled himself a second way. “*And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*” (verse 8). This was an ultimate sacrifice. There was no agenda feeding SELF; Rather, this was an act of complete and unconditional love poured out for undeserving men and women, like you and I.
- 7) And so, with His humble Christmas birth behind Him and the humiliating Easter cross before Him, Jesus humbles himself again... in the presence of his disciples.
- 8) The Apostle John records that “*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 and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*” (verse 4-5)
- 9) Such a simple act... such a shocking act!
- 10) Now, this is the part where I was tempted to find a picture off the Internet of a really nasty mud-caked set of feet so we could all be shocked at Jesus’ act of humility. Let’s be honest, no one here really probably likes the idea of giving someone else’s bunions a wash. But if we focused on that... if we were simply “grossed” out by the dust, we would be missing the larger shock.
- 11) To truly appreciate how counter-cultural, how counter-intuitive, how shocking this foot-washing must have been for Jesus’ disciples, we have to understand the cultural expectations of First Century hospitality:
  - a) In the East, with its dusty roads, to wash someone’s feet when they arrived was the most basic, fundamental act of hospitality offered in a culture that highly valued hospitality.

- b) For a special occasion, like the one that we're reading about this morning. It was even more important as a part of the ceremony for the evening.
- c) We should look passed the "gross" factor and be curious why this act of hospitality hadn't been done already? (Pause) It would have been expected. Perhaps, there simply was no one in the room available?
- d) In First Century Palenstine, this task – while necessary – was the responsibility of a slave, not the Master of the House. It was a lowly responsibility reserved for lowly people. In fact, in a Jewish home, if there were Jewish slaves and non-Jewish slaves serving together; it would be the non-Jewish slave who would be the one to perform this duty. It seems that even slaves have a "pecking order".
- e) As Jesus took off his outer garment, he adopted the dress of the slave.
- f) As Jesus knelt down, he adopted the posture of the slave.
- g) And, as Jesus washed each stinking foot, he adopted the service of the slave.
- h) And, remember, each and every foot around that table got washed, including the feet of Judas – the one Jesus KNEW would betray him soon.
- i) What an act of Ultimate & True Humility.

12) Well, in that supper room, the Apostle John goes on to tell us in contrast about two very different responses by two very different men: Peter and Judas.

13) Peter in his confusion responds in his characteristically loud manner, "*Lord, do you wash my feet?*" (verse 6). After a "teachable moment" with Jesus, however, he swings from hesitation to "All In". "*Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!*" (verse 9).

14) Meanwhile, the Apostle John revealed that "*the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him [Jesus].*" (verse 2). Yet, it seems apparent that Judas maintained all appearances within the group. So much so, that when Jesus revealed that someone sitting at the table would betray him, no one even thought to accuse Judas. His external response to Jesus' humility betrayed his internal agenda. Finally, after Jesus had given a choice morsel to eat in fulfillment of the Scriptures, the inner SELF that Judas had been actively feeding was overwhelmed by evil as verse 27 tells us that "*Satan entered into him.*"

15) For some, this story is troubling. It appears that Judas had "no choice" in the matter. And it raises many questions about "free choice" and "determinism". We don't have enough time today to dive deeply into the matter but let me just share this one insight.

16) The Apostle James writes in Chapter 1: "*Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*" [James 1:13-15]

17) Over a cup of coffee, we may have an interesting conversation about whether or not God "forced" Judas to betrayal, but make no mistake about it – ultimately Judas pursued His own agenda with Himself as the Master in the center.

18) Two witnesses to Ultimate True Humility; Peter and Judas; Two very different responses.

19) Let me ask you: "What response to Jesus' humility is in your heart this morning? Will the humility of Jesus move you towards Him or away from Him? What direction are you traveling? Where is your heart inclined? Towards YOURSELF as Master-Master or towards Jesus as Servant-Master?"

20) Truth is, Jesus left heaven for us – in all its splendor and glory. He willingly lived a perfect life as He willingly went to the cross for us. And, despite His majesty He chooses to maintain the posture of a servant towards us – one who cares deeply.

21) I, for one, am supremely grateful to receive what I don't deserve. How about you?

### MAIN BODY – Encouragement #3: Model Jesus as you serve others in True Humility (7m):

As followers of Christ, “looking to Jesus as the Ultimate Example of True Humility”, we should go beyond just mere observation. Which brings me to my third encouragement: Each of us “*should model Jesus as we serve others in True Humility*”.

- 1) Immediately upon finishing his task of washing feet and putting back on his outer garments, Jesus, the Master Teacher, asks a teacher’s question: “*Do you understand what I have done for you?*”
- 2) Given the history of the disciples for misunderstanding often, it seems like a reasonable question to ask and he didn’t want them to miss the Main Point.
  - a) **Following Jesus’ example, we should serve others in True Humility**
  - b) It is not enough to just experience grace and mercy from the One-who-Humbled-Himself-for-All; his disciples need to extend that grace and mercy in humble service to others, as they represent the King.
- 3) Jesus went on to say, “*For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you... For a servant is not greater than the one who sent him... blessed are you if you do them...*” [John 13:12, 13-15 abridged]
- 4) An example... a pattern... a template... a model... whatever you call it, it is clear that True Humility, Biblical Humility, Jesus Humility should result in humble and sacrificial action directed towards others that He loves also.
- 5) Or as Pastor Chasteen preached in April, “*Be great by being small and serving all!*” (Pause)
- 6) It’s a point that we need to be reminded of often because we can be so easily confused and tempted to forget.

#### TEC ELDERS EXAMPLE:

- 7) Getting ready for this sermon reminded me of the time that I was commissioned as an Elder in my last church. As many of you know, I walked into that church in 1990 full of hate and anger towards God. By his grace, I was healed of that anger and began to serve Him.
- 8) Over the course of time, God matured me and I was asked to become the youngest Elder in that church’s nearly 200-year-old history. Although I felt unworthy, I felt God’s call and I accepted.
- 9) As a reminder of that commissioning, I was given this water pitcher as a humble symbol of the story that we are reading today.
- 10) Well, immediately after the Commissioning Story, there was a party with lots of food. While hanging around in that party, a long-time member and friend approached me and slapped me on the back, and said something that I’ve never forgotten...
  - a)
  - b) “Well, John, congratulations! Now that you are an Elder, I guess that you finally get the best parking space in the lot.”
  - c) For a moment, I didn’t know what to say... I was stunned and taken off guard but... with God was kind and a gracious reminder was put into my spirit by God’s Spirit, I believe...
  - d) “No”, I reminded both him AND me... “now that I’m Elder, I get the privilege of the worst parking space in the lot.” The call to Christian leadership is a call to Servant-Leadership; I’m not the Master, HE is... and my call is to wait in a posture of service to Him and those He loves...
- 11) How did I learn to think like that? Well, in part by reading the Word of God, like we have done today.
- 12) But also in part by living in a community faith where I get to see this basic attitude modeled and displayed.

EXAMPLE – STEVE PHILLIPS:

- 13) Take for example, my friend, Steve Phillips. We've served together and loved each other in Christian brotherhood for several decades – long before I came to Redemption Hill Church.
- 14) Over time, I've come to appreciate his humble and willing spirit to do whatever is necessary – most times in relative anonymity. And, he'd probably be a bit embarrassed if I told you this story while he was here because the spotlight is not his favorite place to be.
- 15) Steve's a hard-working pipe-fitter who covers high-pressure steam systems for all of the property of Boston University. It's a tough job requiring great skill and lots of wisdom and strength.
- 16) So this winter when I realized that our friends at the Medford Boys & Girls Club had some exposed hot pipes in the gym AND that the Medford DPW was already strapped with lots of work to do. I picked up the phone and called him – knowing that he would receive my call with joy. Not because it produced guilt or he felt pressure but because he genuinely loves to respond within his giftedness to meet the needs of others.
- 17) In this case, it was for a church that was not his home church for a Medford community partner that he had no personal relationship with.
- 18) But... He does have a relationship with Jesus... and he has received an abundance of kindness from Jesus... and he knows that Jesus loves His Body, the church... and he knows that Jesus loves the staff, children, and families of the Medford Boys & Girls Club... He made the connections of True Humility... and, then modeled what He knows from Jesus' example and... served the needs of others...
- 19) He didn't get paid, although his skill commands a large wage.
- 20) He brought his own supplies; He said that they really belonged to God anyway.
- 21) He snuck in when no one was looking; It wasn't important to him that he be noticed.
- 22) But God noticed... his heart...
- 23) And, I noticed... his humility...
- 24) And, the Club noticed... his skill...
- 25) And, as a result, God was pleased, Christ was copied, and the Spirit was released as he worshipped through service.

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- 26) And, as the Body of Christ, we want to extend that Spirit. Why should Steve get to be the only one who finds fruitfulness and satisfaction in humble acts of service for the benefit of others made in God's image?
- 27) So next Sunday, the Elders have designated it as "SERVE Medford Sunday".
- 28) Later in our service, you'll get more specific details about the morning but keep in mind this: Jesus will be our model in all that we do.
- 29) We'll have some time to fellowship over a Special Coffee Bar, some time to corporately worship together, and some time to go out and meet some real needs in our community.
- 30) So come prepared: Dress to serve, Select an Identified project; bring some tools; bring a friend; grab some lunch...
- 31) As a church, who's feet has been washed by our Servant-Lord, let's go wash some feet!
- 32) Returning to Paul's letter to the Philippians, let's be reminded:
  - a) *"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* [Phil 2:1-4]

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS & PRAYER (5 minutes):

### 1) Final Exhortation:

- a) As he washed the feet of his followers, Jesus displayed his genuine and personal love for them.
- b) As we've learned, he provided a pattern of Christian conduct for each of us to follow.
- c) And, he provided another symbol of a saving cleansing from pride and sin.
  - i) <sup>6</sup> *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"* <sup>7</sup> *Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but **afterward** you will understand."* <sup>8</sup> *Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet."* *Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."* <sup>9</sup> *Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"* <sup>10</sup> *Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is **completely clean**."*
- d) Even though Peter did not yet understand that the "afterward" to which Jesus was referring to was the crucifixion, gathered here today, we recognize that placing our faith in that act of True Humility has the effect of a "complete cleansing".
- e) It is what we remember and retell around "The Lord's Supper". Just like we will this morning.
- f) So as we look forward to that opportunity for renewal, let's surrender ourselves to God's Spirit.
- g) Let's cultivate humility with confession, and repentance, and adoration.
- h) **Following Jesus' example, Let's commit to serve others in True Humility**
  - i) We'll need to be certain to "Guard our hearts as we seek to understand God's True Humility"
  - ii) We'll need to "Look to Jesus as the Ultimate Example of True Humility"
  - iii) After looking to Him, we'll need to "Model Jesus as we serve others in True Humility"
- i) Keeping in mind this morning, what Paul concludes in Philippians: that <sup>9</sup> *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* <sup>11</sup> *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

### 2) Transition – Let's Us Pray: Heavenly Father, ...

### 3) The Lord's Supper – followed by the song "He is Lord"