

Fourth Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

LESSON FOREWORD—The incident of our lesson happened at the Passover feast at the very close of the ministry of Jesus. We have Jesus giving Peter and John and the rest another lesson in the love that serves as against the self that seeks. The disciples, like ourselves, were exceeding poor learners of this supreme truth of service.

Lesson IX.

JESUS TEACHES PETER TRUE
GREATNESS

November 30, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—John 13 : 5-16, 36-38.

5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 Then cometh he to Si'mon Pe'ter: and Pe'ter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7 Je'sus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Pe'ter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Je'sus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

9 Si'mon Pe'ter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

10 Je'sus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto,

them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

36 Si'mon Pe'ter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Je'sus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

37 Pe'ter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

38 Je'sus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

GOLDEN TEXT—The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Matt. 20 : 28.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Greatness Through Service. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Mark 10 : 36-45; Rom. 12 : 3-8; Phil. 2 : 5-11; 1 Peter 5 : 5-11.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. EXAMPLE.—5-11. *He poureth water.* Luke tells that a dispute had arisen among the disciples about who was the greatest. This was occasioned possibly by the question as to what disciple would have the place of honor near Jesus at the feast. Meanwhile, they had forgotten, in the absence of a servant, to pay to their Master the courtesy of washing his feet, which was usually done when the guest entered. Jesus' quiet action was a very pointed commentary on their forgetfulness. Selfishness is short-memoried and short-sighted. Peter... dost thou wash my feet. Peter thinks that such a service is dishonoring to Jesus. What I do

thou knowest not now. Peter does not understand the principle that lies behind this act. He will learn its full significance after Christ's crucifixion. If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Peter can only learn the lesson intended by sub-

mitting to the washing, and this lesson unlearned would leave Peter unfit for any share in Christ's work and love. Also my hands and my head. "If this washing is as important as that, then, Master, let it be as extensive as possible." He that is washed. The word "washed" means "bathed all over." Such a one only needs his feet bathed after the journey. Ye are clean. Jesus speaks of spiritual



JESUS WASHING PETER'S FEET