

Lesson VI.

JESUS THE SERVANT OF ALL

May 6, 1917

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Wednesday and Thursday of our Lord's last week on earth were spent quietly at Bethany, and on Thursday evening, Jesus and his disciples went to an upper room in Jerusalem to observe the Passover (see Mark 14 : 12-17). As the disciples were seating themselves at the table, a dispute arose among them as to which of them should have the most honorable places, Luke 22 : 24-30.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all.—Mark 10 : 44 (Rev. Ver.).

*Memorize John 1 : 10, 11.

THE LESSON PASSAGE—John 13 : 3-15. Study John 13 : 1-17.

3 Je'sus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he ¹ was come from God, and ² went to God ;

4 ³ He riseth from supper, and ⁴ laid aside his garments ; and ⁵ took a towel, and girded himself.

5 ⁶ After that he poureth water into ⁷ a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6 ⁸ Then cometh he to Si'mon Pe'ter : ⁹ 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 ¹⁰ 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.

Revised Version—¹ came forth from ; ² goeth unto God ; ³ Omitt He ; ⁴ layeth ; ⁵ he ; ⁶ Then he ; ⁷ the ; ⁸ So he cometh ; ⁹ He saith ; ¹⁰ understand ; ¹¹ bathed ; ¹² him that ; ¹³ when ; ¹⁴ Omitt had ; ¹⁵ sat down ; ¹⁶ me, Master, and, Lord ; ¹⁷ the Lord and the Master ; ¹⁸ also.

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 ¹¹ washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit : and ye are clean, but not all.

11 For he knew ¹² who should betray him ; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

12 So ¹³ after he had washed their feet, and ¹⁴ had taken his garments, and ¹⁵ was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you ?

13 Ye call ¹⁶ me Master and Lord : and ye say well ; for so I am.

14 If I then, ¹⁷ 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 ¹⁸ should do as I have done to you.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus the servant of all, John 13 : 1-17.

T.—Jesus' humble occupation, Mark 6 : 1-6.

W.—His humble friends, Matt. 9 : 9-17.

Th.—His mission to save and suffer, Luke 9 : 18-56

F.—His example of service, 2 Cor. 8 : 1-9.

S.—The glory of humiliation, Phil. 2 : 1-11.

S.—Perfection through suffering, Heb. 2 : 9-18.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Jesus and his disciples were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, waiting for the supper to begin. Our Lord knew that the hour of his death on the awful cross was just at hand, and, beyond the cross, he saw the glory into which he should soon enter. At such a time, his thoughts might well have been occupied with himself and what was about to happen to him. But, instead, his mind and heart were full of the disciples and their needs. While the supper was going on, Judas left the room to betray Jesus. Vs. 1, 2.

I. THE LOWLY SERVANT.—3. Jesus knowing, etc.; a fourfold description of what he really was: (1) the Father's Son; (2) all-powerful; (3) God's ambassador; (4) soon to return to the Father's glory.

4, 5. **Riseth from supper.** He had been reclining at the table, as was the Eastern custom at meals. **Laid aside his garments;** the loose, flowing outer robe worn by the Jews. **Took a towel;** or long linen



JESUS WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

cloth. **Girded himself;** in servant fashion, gathering up about the waist the skirts of the robe, which covered the close-fitting tunic worn as an under-garment. Jesus "put himself in the ordinary dress of a servant." **Began to wash the disciples' feet.** There was no servant present, and each of the disciples was too proud and sulky (see Between the Lessons) to do this lowly service.

6-8. **Cometh . . . to Simon Peter;** having first washed the feet of some other disciples, taking them in order. **Peter saith, etc.;**

drawing up his feet out of reach, honestly ashamed now of his pride and self-seeking. **Jesus answered.** Jesus would presently explain his purpose (see vs. 13-17). Meanwhile it was the disciple's place to yield to his master's wishes. **Never wash my feet.** This reply shows true humility, but this was not deep enough to make Peter see the wrong of dictating to Jesus. **No part with me.** Unless Jesus cleanses us from

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV, a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III, and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.