

# I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE

## JOHN 13:1-17

SERIES: CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Text: John 13:15

### **John 13:15**

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

Introduction:

The demands of the Christian life are not optional, they are mandatory. Even love to God is legislated. Jesus commanded, "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). This is not popular preaching in an age of compromise and complacency, but is nonetheless the heart of our gospel.

For the believer, there are certain things that he ought to do. Failure to comply is sin, for the Scriptures insist that "...to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

There are aspects of our Lord's life and work that are peculiar to Him alone as the eternal Son of God. At the same time, there are certain standards of divine

behavior which He expects everyone to emulate, by the power of His indwelling Spirit. Perhaps the most direct and dramatic passage that illustrates this matter of example is the one before us. In these exalted words of our Savior we see:

## **1. THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAVIOR'S LOVE (13:14-15)**

(John 13:14-15) "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."

A) Jesus Loved the One who Betrayed Him  
(13:11)

(John 13:11) "For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean."

B) Jesus Loved the One who Denied Him (13:37-38)

(John 13:37-38) "Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. {38} Jesus 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."

C) Jesus Loved the Ones who Forsook Him

(Matt. 26:56)

(Matthew 26:56) "But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled."

## **2. THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAVIOR'S LIFE (13:14-15)**

(John 13:14-15) "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."

### **A) The Humbleness of His Life (13:3-4)**

(Philippians 2:5-11) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. {9} Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: {10} That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; {11} And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

## B) The Helpfulness of His Life (13:5)

(John 13:5) "After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."

## C) The Holiness of His Life (13:8)

(1 Peter 1:16) "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

# **3. THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAVIOR'S LEADERSHIP (13:14-15)**

(John 13:14-15) "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."

## A) The Ability to Serve (13:16)

(John 13:16) "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."

## B) The Authority to Send (13:16)

(John 13:16) "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."

(John 20:21) "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

## Conclusion

We have seen what is meant by The Ought of Example. Jesus said, "... you... ought For I have given you an example..." (13:14-15). God grant that His love, His life and His leadership may be demonstrated in word and deed as we seek to follow in His steps.