

Message Eleven

Life's Issue & Multiplication and Life's Washing in Love to Maintain Fellowship

Scripture reading: John 12: 1-36, John 13: 1-38

I. Life's Issue: Church

- A. First part of John 12 shows us how the church comes into existence - The issue of life is to produce the church – 12:1-11, cf. Eph. 2:1-10.
 - 1. Chapter 12 of John is the conclusion of the nine foregoing cases.
 - 2. The church is a place for feasting, rest and satisfaction for the Lord and His believers – being outside of religion – cf. Matt. 8:20.
- B. The house of Bethany is a miniature of the church life.
 - 1. The church is produced by the resurrection life – resurrection of Lazarus – 1 Pet. 3:21, cf. Col. 2:13, cf. Eph. 2:5.
 - 2. The church is composed of cleansed sinners – in the house of Simon the leper – Mark 14:3.
 - 3. The church is outwardly poor and afflicted - Bethany means house of the poor or house of affliction – John 11:1.
 - 4. Inwardly, the church is feasting in and with the presence of the Lord – v.2.
 - 5. Having more sisters than brothers – vv.2-3.
 - 6. With different functions – Serving Martha, Testifying Lazarus and Loving Mary – vv.2-3.
 - 7. Spotted by the False One – Judas – v.4.
 - 8. Persecuted by Religion – Jewish priest counseling to kill Lazarus – v.10.
 - 9. Being a test and exposing people – vv.3-8.
 - 10. Bringing in many believers – vv.9-11.

II. Life's Multiplication: through Death and Resurrection

- A. Second part of John 12 shows how the Lord can increase the church through His death and resurrection - The multiplication of life is to increase the church in size, in number, and in the growth of life.
- B. Second part of John 12 shows us the principle of life's multiplication.
 - 1. Not by the golden opportunity – vv.17-18.
 - 2. But as a grain of wheat to fall into the ground and die and produces many grains – v.24, cf. 1 Pet. 1:3.
 - 3. History told us of the same principle: Church grew by persecution, degradation in the church came by the welcome of the Roman Empire.

4. The Lord's death has many aspects – the redeeming aspect (Lamb of God – John 1:29), judging aspect (Brass Serpent – 3:14), the life-releasing/producing aspect (Grain of Wheat – 12:24).

III. Life's washing in love to maintain fellowship:

- A. What the Lord established in John 13 is not legalistic, it is a sign that indicates something deeper and spiritual – 13:7-8.
- B. The foot washing is by the Lord Himself.
 1. The Lord loved them to the uttermost – v.1.
 2. The Lord knows all that had been given to Him – v.3.
 3. Laying aside His garments – putting aside His virtues and attributes – v.4.
 4. Girding Himself – bound and restricted with humility – v.4, cf. 1 Pet 5:5.
 5. Washing with water – by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), the Word (Eph. 5:26, John 15:3) and the life (John 19:34) to wash away the dirt of earthly touch to maintain their fellowship with the Lord and with one another.
 6. This washing differs from the washing away of sin by the blood – Gal. 6:1, cf. 1John 1:7.
 7. The result of washing is to have part in Christ – John 13:8.
- C. The foot washing is by one another among the believers.
 1. By following the example of the Lord – vv.12-14.
 2. By loving one another – 15:12.
 3. By humbling one-self – kneeling to wash feet.
- D. Without such a foot washing, the church life in John 12 cannot be maintained, because the fellowship will have been damaged by the earthly touch.
- E. To remain in the fellowship of the Lord maintained by the foot washing requires the strength of resurrection life – example of Peter's failure – 13:31-38.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

John 12:1-11. 1 Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was about to betray Him, said, 5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 But he said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, carried off what was put into it. 7 Then Jesus said, Leave her alone; she has reserved it for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me. 9 Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 And the chief priests took counsel to kill Lazarus also, 11 Because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed into Jesus.

Eph. 2:1-10. 1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, 2 In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience; 3 Among whom we also all conducted ourselves once in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest; 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) 6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, 7 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; 9 Not of works that no one should boast. 10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

Matt. 8:20 And Jesus said to him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have roosts, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.

1 Pet. 3:21 Which water, as the antitype, also now saves you, that is, baptism, not a putting away of the filth of the flesh but the appeal of a good conscience unto God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Col. 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;

John 12:12- 36. 12 On the next day, the great crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, 13 Took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! 14 And Jesus, having found a young donkey, sat on it, as it is written, 15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King comes, sitting on a donkey's colt." 16 These things His disciples did not understand at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him and that they had done these things to Him. 17 The crowd therefore that was with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead testified. 18 For this reason the crowd also went and met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. 19 The Pharisees then said to one another, You see that you are not doing anything worthwhile; behold, the world has gone after Him. 20 And there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast. 21 These then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, Sir, we wish to see Jesus. 22 Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew came, and Philip too, and they told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his soul-life loses it; and he who hates his soul-life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also My servant will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. 27 Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me out of this hour. But for this reason I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came out of heaven: I have both glorified it and will glorify it again. 29 The crowd therefore which stood by and heard it said that there had been thunder; others said, An angel has spoken to Him. 30 Jesus answered and said, This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sake. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. 33 But He said this signifying by what kind of death He was about to die. 34 The crowd therefore answered Him, We have heard out of the law that the Christ abides forever; and how is it that You say, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man? 35 Jesus then said to them, The light is still among you a little while. Walk while you have the light so that darkness may not overcome you; and he who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light. Jesus said these things, and He went away and was hidden from them.

1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

John 13:1-38. 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come for Him to depart

out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost. 2 And while supper was taking place, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, that he should betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God, 4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself; 5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 He came then to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, Lord, do You wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said to him, What I am doing you do not know now, but you will know after these things. 8 Peter said to Him, You shall by no means wash my feet forever. Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me. 9 Simon Peter said to Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. 10 Jesus said to him, He who is bathed has no need except to wash his feet, but is wholly clean; and you are clean, but not all of you. 11 For He knew the one betraying Him; for this reason He said, Not all of you are clean. 12 Then when He had washed their feet and taken His outer garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you say rightly, for I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example so that you also may do even as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, A slave is not greater than his master, nor one who is sent greater than the one who sends him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen, but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me." 19 From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe that I am. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who receives whomever I shall send receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 21 When Jesus had said these things, He became troubled in His spirit, and He testified and said, Truly, truly, I say to you that one of you will betray Me. 22 The disciples looked at one another, perplexed over whom He was speaking about. 23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining on Jesus' bosom. 24 Simon Peter therefore nodded to him to inquire who it might be about whom He was speaking. 25 Then he, while reclining thus on Jesus' breast, said to Him, Lord, who is it? 26 Jesus answered, It is he for whom I will dip the morsel and to whom I will give it. And dipping the morsel, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 And at that moment, after the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, What you do, do quickly. 28 But none of those reclining at table knew why He said this to him. 29 For some supposed, since Judas held the purse, that Jesus was saying to him, Buy the things that we have need of for the feast, or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Therefore having taken the morsel, he went out immediately; and it was night. 31 Then when he went out, Jesus said, Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. 32 If God has been glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and He will glorify Him immediately. 33 Little children, I am still with you a little while; you will seek Me, and even as I said to the Jews, Where I am going, you cannot come, now I say to you also. 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. 36 Simon Peter said to Him, Lord, where are You going? Jesus answered him, Where I go you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow later. 37 Peter said to Him, Lord,

why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You. 38 Jesus answered, Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, A rooster shall by no means crow until you deny Me three times.

1 Pet. 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Eph. 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out ablood and water.

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, even if a man is overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, looking to yourself lest you also be tempted.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another even as I have loved you.