

HE TOOK THE TOWEL

(January 7, 2018)

(John 13:1-17)

Small Group Study Notes

Getting to know you: What is the dirtiest task you have had to perform?

Open:

- Are the first twelve chapters of John public or private?
- What about John 13-17?
- What do we mean...John 13-17 is like a slow-motion video of the Lord's life when compared to the first twelve?

1) Read John 13:1-3, The Table

- What is the special occasion?
- Where does this take place?
- What does "His hour had come" mean?
- How does knowing about my future help me deal with the present?
- What had Judas been up too?
- Could Judas help himself? After all, it says the devil prompted him...(vs. 2)? Explain.
- How does John describe Jesus in verse 3?

2) Read John 13:4-12, The Towel

- Explain the custom of washing guest's feet?
- Why do you think none of the disciples took the initiative?
- What had the disciples just been discussing (see Luke 22:24).
- Have you ever been frustrated by...someone ought to fix something, help someone serve in some capacity...but no one does? Why is this?
- How is Jesus taking off His outer robe and stooping to do a menial task a picture of a bigger story (hint: redemption).
- How would you have felt if Jesus stooped to wash your feet?
- How is Peter's personality revealed in this incident?
- What did Jesus mean: you don't need a spiritual bath...you just need your feet clean?
- Explain the difference between justification and sanctification.
- Compare relationship and fellowship.
- Who in the group had never had a spiritual bath? What percentage of the church (the general church world-wide) do you think have no true relationship with God through Christ? What makes you think this?

3) Read John 13:13-17, The Truth

- What practical lesson would the Lord want you to take with you?
- Who or how have you served recently?
- Explain these principles:
 - o Humble service isn't convenient but necessary.
 - o Do not announce you are serving, just do it.
 - o Serving is not a sign of weakness.
 - o Servants do not play favorites.

CLOSE:

- Have you had a spiritual bath?
- Are your feet clean?
- What challenges you about this lesson?
- Is there anything you don't understand?
- Look for a practical way to serve and help someone this week.