

God On His Knees

Introduction: John 13:1-5

1. Notice carefully in this lesson:
 - a. The Awareness – What Jesus knew!
 - b. The Action – What Jesus did!
 - c. The Affirmation – Why Jesus did it!

I. THE AWARENESS – WHAT JESUS KNEW! (John 13:1-3).

Note five things Jesus knew. He knew about His:

A. Death – He knew about His death. He knew that His hour had come to die (John 13:1).

1. This is the hour that He had been marching toward since even before the foundation of the world (I Peter 1:20; Rev. 13:8).
2. God had said Satan would bruise His heel – referring to His death on the cross (Gen. 3:15).
3. The Psalmist had said they would pierce His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16).
4. Isaiah had said He would be cut off out of the land of the living (Isa. 53:8).
5. Zechariah said that they would smite the Shepherd and the sheep would be scattered (Zech. 13:7).
6. Time and time again Jesus had taught His disciples that He must go up to Jerusalem and die or be crucified (Matt.

16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19).

7. On at least two occasions, prior to this meeting in the upper room, the people sought to lay hands on Him but could not, *"For his hour had not yet come"* (John 7:30; 8:20).
 8. Just prior to this occasion in the upper room Jesus said to Philip and Andrew, *"The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified"* (John 12:23).
 9. That He dreaded and was troubled over this hour is seen in His statement, *"Now my soul is troubled; and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour"* (John 12:27).
 10. Now in this upper room John stresses that Jesus knew His hour was come (John 13:1).
 11. That this hour was more horrible and dreadful than you and I can imagine is seen when Jesus went to the garden just a little later and prayed, *"If it were possible the hour might pass from him"* (Mark 14:35).
 12. Note carefully that John says, *"Jesus knew his hour was come"* (John 13:1).
- B. Disciples** – He knew what His disciples were going to do (John 13:2)!
1. The fact that He knew that Judas was going to betray Him is implied in John 13:2 and is clearly stated in Luke, where Jesus said, *"Behold the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table"* (Luke 22:21).

2. He knew Peter was going to deny Him. He said to Peter on this very occasion, "*The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice*" (John 13:38).
3. He knew that they all would be offended and that they would forsake Him (Matt. 26:31).
4. He knew that they were slow to learn and that they still misunderstood the nature of His kingdom, and on this very occasion they were arguing over who was going to be the greatest (Luke 22:24).
5. Jesus knew what His disciples were going to do (John 13:2).

C. **Dominion** – Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands (John 13:3).

1. He knew that He had all power in heaven and on earth as He later stated to His apostles in giving them the great commission (Matt. 28:18).
2. Even John the Baptist had said, "*The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand*" (John 3:35).
3. Earlier during His ministry, He had made the statement, "*All things are delivered unto me of my Father*" (Matt. 11:27).
4. Finally, in His prayer in John 17:2, He stated that God "*had given Him power over all flesh*" (John 17:2).
5. John reminds us that on this occasion with His disciples Jesus knew it. "*He knew the Father had given all things into His hand*" (John 13:3).

D. Deity – He knew that He was God, that He was a Divine Being, that He was a member of the Godhead – that He came from God (John 13:3).

1. He knew He had always existed – *“everlasting Father”* (Isa. 9:6).
2. He knew that His going forth had been *“from everlasting”* (Micah 5:2; Heb. 1:12).
3. He knew that before He became flesh He was the Word and was with God and was Himself God (John 1:1-3).
4. He knew that He had created all things (Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:9).
5. He knew that, as God, He *“upheld all things by the word of his power”* (Heb. 1:3).
6. He knew one day He would fold this old earth up, like folding up a garment (Heb. 1:12).
7. In short, as Isaiah stated, He knew that He was *“the mighty God”* (Isa. 9:6).
8. Jesus knew He was God and John makes it perfectly clear that He was aware of this (John 13:3).

E. Destination – He knew that He was about to return to the Father (John 13:3).

1. Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had said, *“what and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before”* (John 6:62).
2. Time and again in this upper room He told them that He was going to the Father (John 14:12, 28; 16:10,16,17,28).
3. He knew that He was going to be exalted at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33).
4. He knew that He was going to sit down

- with the Father in His throne (Rev. 3:21).
5. He knew that His throne would be forever and ever (Heb. 1:8).
 6. He knew that He would reign until all His enemies were conquered and destroyed (I Cor. 15:25-26).
 7. In short, He knew that He would be "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*" (I Tim. 6:15).
 8. John stresses that Jesus knew He was about to go to God (John 13:3).

II. THE ACTION - WHAT JESUS DID (John 13:4-5).

A. Notice what Jesus did:

1. Did He explain to them that His hour had come and how horrible and terrible it was going to be, so His disciples could sympathize and comfort Him?
2. Did He really rebuke the disciples and rake them over the coals, because one of them was going to betray Him, one deny Him, and all forsake Him? Did He really come down on them because they were arguing among themselves who would be the greatest in the kingdom?
3. Did He let them know that He had control of all things so they could admire His power?
4. Did He let them know that He was God, and then suggest that they fall down and worship Him?
5. Did He brag about the fact that, while they were arguing over the chief seats on earth, He was going to a throne in heaven?

6. No, He did not do any of these things. What did He do? Read verses 4 and 5. **He Got On His Knees!** Listen, He, knowing all those things, got on His knees. We are supposed to get that from the text. It was John (not me) who said that He knew these things, then He got on His knees.

B. Normally, when I think of God, I think of Him as:

1. Omniscient – All wise. One who knows everything (Acts 15:18).
2. Omnipotent – All powerful. Nothing is impossible with Him in keeping with His nature (Matt. 19:26).
3. Omnipresent – All present. There is no place where He is not. He is not far from every one of us (Acts 17:27).

C. But look at this. Here is a God who will surrender. He is a God who will get on His knees for man. For such a rebellious, sinning, stubborn, unthankful, unholy, and ungodly creature, God will get on His knees.

D. Luke 15 shows that God will run – but He'll do more than that. John 13 shows that He will get on His knees to save man. He'll give up heaven and become a servant to save him (Phil. 2:5-8).

E. Listen people, we are talking about a God who will:

1. Weep for man (Luke 19:41).
2. Plead for man (Matt. 23:37).

3. Suffer for man (Matt. 26:38).
4. Be in agony for man (Luke 22:44).

F. John wants us to see this – God will get on His knees for you and me. He'll do anything He can – nothing is too great a sacrifice for Him – if that will save us.

III. THE AFFIRMATION – Why Did He Do It (John 13:1)?

A. He loved them to the end – the uttermost, the utmost degree (Vine) (John 13:1).

1. *“For God so loved the world”* (John 3:16).
2. *“Greater love hath no man than this...”* (John 15:13).
3. *“But God commendeth his love toward us...”* (Rom. 5:8).

B. Why was God on His knees? He wanted to save them. He wanted to change their attitude about Him and His kingdom. And to do that He got on His knees to demonstrate and help them see what it takes to be great in His kingdom. He did the job of a servant.

C. He got on His knees for you and me. You see, God, leaving heaven and coming to earth, humbling Himself, and living as a servant was actually God getting on His knees to save us.

D. He humbled Himself and became a servant (Phil. 2:5-8).

E. He would do it again if it would help. John drives the point home – that God will get on His knees

to change man's attitude.

1. Even though this past week you had more important things to do than serve Him, He'd get on His knees to save you – to change your attitude.
2. Even though you care more about making money than worshipping and serving Him – He'd get on His knees to save you.
3. Even though you care more about being with your kinfolks and friends than coming to worship Him – He'd get on His knees to change you.
4. Even though you won't hardly give up anything for Him – He'd get on His knees to change your attitude.
5. Even though you have been drifting further and further away from Him – He'd get on His knees to bring you back.
6. Even though you know the truth but have, so far, refused to obey Him – He'd get on His knees to get you to obey Him.

SPECIAL NOTE: And brethren, those of you who are faithful, we too must seek for this mind of Christ. We, too, must be willing to get on our knees to save others (Phil. 2:5).

1. Jesus said, after He had washed the disciples' feet, *"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"* (John 13:15).
2. We must be willing to surrender some of our time, talents, and treasure for others.
3. What we need more of in the church today

is servants, who, like Jesus, will get on their knees to help others.

CONCLUSION:

If you need to respond, remember that God would get on His knees if that would help. This is the main lesson from John 13.