

Aiming
HIGHER
by Stooping
LOWER

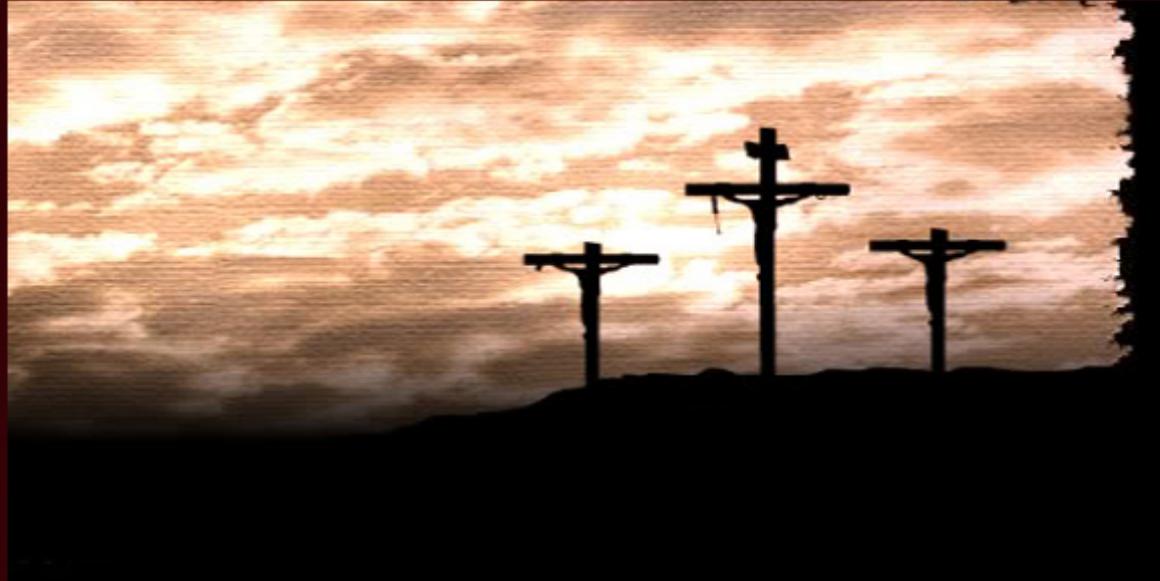


D. L. Moody



D.L. Moody once said,
"We may easily be too big
for God to use, but never
too small for God to use."





**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world!**

John 1:29 (New King James Version)



The Lord and His disciples are now in a large furnished upper room, where they then prepare and eat the Passover Supper. This supper has come to be known as the Last Supper.

JESUS

NO GREATER LOVE

Everything Christ did was based in love. He had come into the world because of His love for all men. Now He would depart out of this world because of His love for all men, through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to the Father.

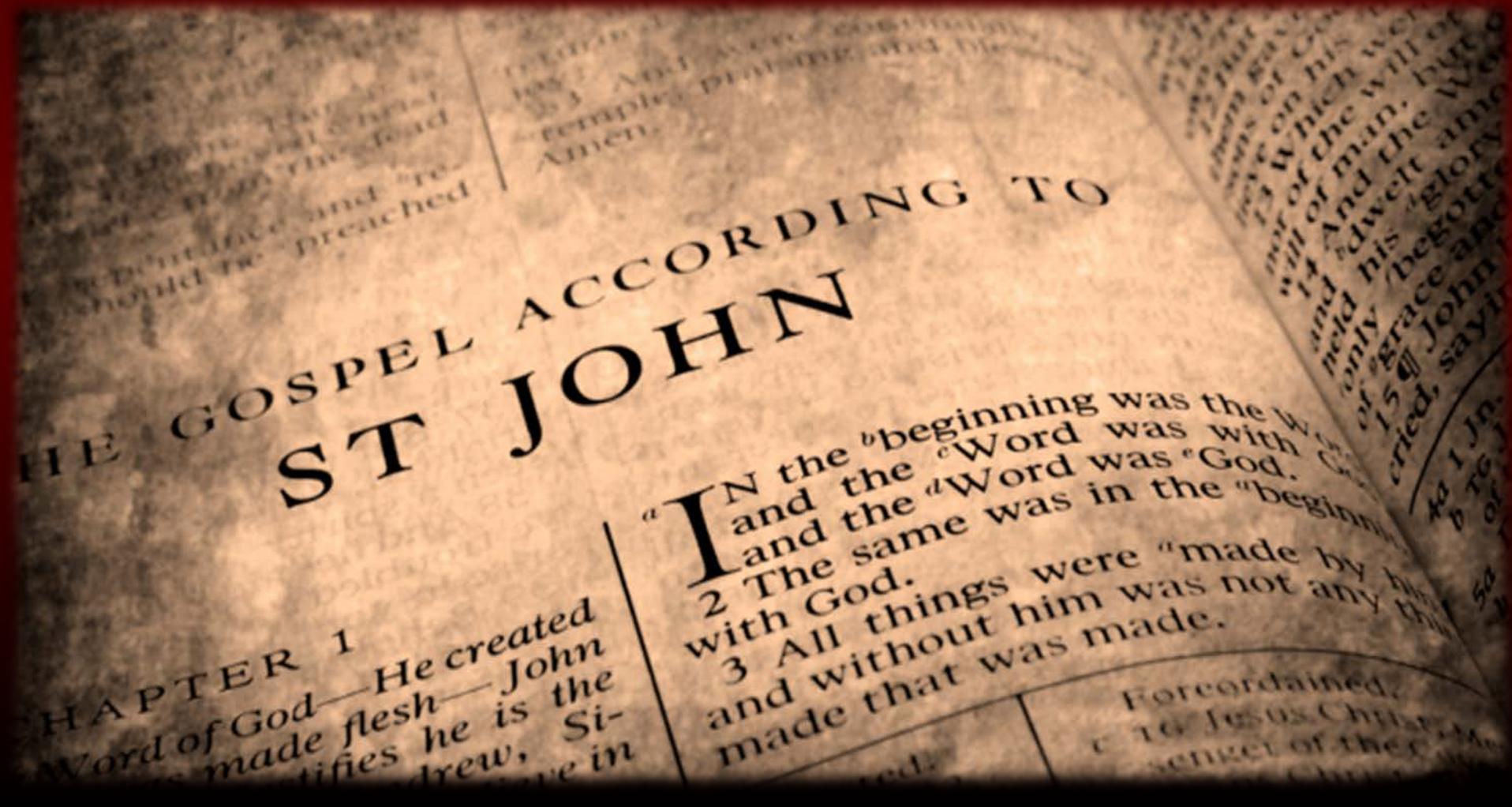
Selfless love and selfishness are put in stark contrast here between verses 1 and 2, the love of Christ, and the selfishness of Judas.





Leon Morris says: "John is about to describe a situation in which Jesus took on a very lowly position. But the apostle and the Spirit does not want the reader to forget that the highest possible place is Jesus' by divine right."

John 1:3 says of Christ, the Word of God, that "all things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."







Living in the conditions they lived in, it necessitated the need for foot-washing as a practical, normal, everyday practice and custom. There was nothing religious about it.



Luke 22:24 says, "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."



Chuck Swindoll writes, "The room was filled with proud hearts and dirty feet. The disciples were willing to fight for a throne, but not for a towel."



The One of whom John the Baptist said, "He it is...whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose," unlatched the shoe latchet of each of the disciples, took them off and washed and cleaned the feet of each of His disciples.



Christ's actions in verses four and five are a picture of what He did when He left heaven to come to earth.

Christ arose from His throne, laid aside the outward expression of His glory and majesty and became a Servant, and He humbled Himself.

Warren Wiersbe says,
"Jesus was Sovereign,
yet He took the place
of a servant. He had
all things in His hands,
yet He picked up and
held a towel. He was
Lord and Master, yet
He served His
followers."



A crown of thorns, made of dry, sharp, and tangled branches, is positioned on the left side of the image, resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. The wood grain is visible, and the lighting creates a sense of depth and texture.

In Mark 10:43-45 Jesus says, "but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.."

the **GOSPEL**
of **MARK**



In the Christian life, greatness is measured by our heart of service and our willingness to humbly stoop and bow low to help others.



"Authentic service is sparked by immediate need, not the convenience of energy, schedule, or especially social norms and expectations."



Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and cancelling our plans by sending us people with needs and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks...but it is part of the discipline of humility that we must not hesitate when our service is needed. We must not assume that our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be arranged by God."

As the Master approached Peter, he impulsively challenged and questioned the Lord, literally saying, "Lord! *You* are washing *my* feet?"

Saying in essence, "Lord, never in all eternity should you wash my feet!" or "Do *you*, the Messiah and God's Son, perform the work of a servant, toward *me*, a sinner?"





When we think of the Cross, the same sense of astonishment should be ours, "Lord, *you*, the Holy One, God's only Son, you died for *me*, a sinner, for *my* sins?"

Christ's action amazed and embarrassed Peter.

The Lord told Peter that it had a purpose and meaning for his life, but Peter still protested out of his reverence for Christ, telling the Lord "Thou shalt never wash my feet" (v. 8).





If Christ washing his feet was necessary to be His, Peter impetuously tells Him to please do this and take it a step or two further and wash my hands and head too! Dump the whole basin of water over top of me!



The Lord tells them in v. 15 that He had given them an example to follow, not established an ordinance of foot-washing for acceptance with God as some denominations say. Christ was emphasizing inner humility not an outward, physical, religious rite.





servant of all

Now that I, your Lord
and Teacher, have washed
your feet, you also should wash
one another's feet.

John 13:14 niv



If ye know these things,
happy are ye if ye do them.

John 13:17 (KJV)