

Pacesetters Devotional

John 13:1-5; 18:3,4

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus **knowing** that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end . . . ³ Jesus, **knowing** that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel . . . ⁵ He . . . began to wash the disciples' feet . . .

John 18:3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ So Jesus, **knowing** all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

How was Jesus able to wash His twelve disciples' feet when He was about to be betrayed by Judas and deserted by the other eleven? How was Jesus able to go forth to face those who came to unjustly arrest Him? How could He respond to such disappointment and adversity with such love and courage?

John, one of Jesus' disciples, evidently asked Him these very questions after He was resurrected and appeared to His disciples. Jesus answered John's questions – and John has passed His answers on to us so that we might be able to respond to our challenges as Jesus responded to His.

The key to Jesus' victorious response was not His deity, because He lived as a human being like us. The key was what He was "knowing." In 13:1,3, and again in 18:4, we read that Jesus knew certain things that pertained to Him – and that a living conviction of these truths was the



basis for washing His disciples' feet and facing those who came to arrest Him. We can have a living knowledge of these same things, because they are true of us through our union with Jesus – and therefore we can respond as He did. Let us therefore prayerfully consider what Jesus knew.

- Jesus knew that “He had come forth from the Father” (13:3). The fact that He had come forth from His Father confirmed His *dignity*. Washing people's feet was not humiliating to Jesus because, being the Father's Son, He knew that His dignity as a Person was secure.

Likewise, through faith in Jesus we have been “born from above” (John 3:3), so that we are now God's beloved children (1 John 3:1). The more we live in the light of this knowledge, the more secure we become – and the less we fear human disrespect or humiliation. Serving others from the knowledge of our dignity does not demean us; it is rather a way to please our Father who loves us, and to experience more of His love.

- Jesus knew that “He was going back to the Father” (13:1,3). The fact that He was going back to His Father speaks of His *ultimate destiny*. Because He knew that He would be reunited with His Father and inherit His Father's kingdom, Jesus had a hope that transcended the short time He was on earth.

Likewise, through faith in Jesus we have God's guarantee that we will live forever with Him in His kingdom (John 3:16; 17:3). When we are focused on the certainty of this hope, it has the effect of outweighing any difficulty we may experience in this life (Romans 8:18). Since we know that our salvation will soon be completed, we can sacrificially love our neighbors in the meantime (Romans 13:10-12).

- Jesus knew that “the Father had given all things into His hands” (13:3). This speaks of Jesus' *authority*. He could bear with His



disciples' pride and ignorance, and with His enemies' mistreatment, because He knew that this was not the last word. He knew that no one and nothing could ultimately prevent His mission from succeeding. Indeed, Jesus' execution at the hands of His enemies did not defeat Him; it only accomplished His will that He die for the guilt of our sins and be raised from the dead forever! Likewise, because we belong to Jesus and participate in His mission, we know that we cannot be ultimately defeated. When Jesus commissioned His followers to make disciples, He based His command on the fact that "all authority has been given to Me" (Matthew 28:18,19). As we love others and share the message that Jesus is the Savior and Lord, we are assured of ultimate success. Jesus will either remove obstacles to our mission, or He will work through those very obstacles to advance His work through us. No wonder Paul can say of these adversities: "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37)!"

- Jesus knew that "His hour had come" (13:1), and He knew "all the things that were coming upon Him" (18:4). This speaks of the fact that the experiences of His life were part of *His Father's redemptive plan*. Jesus had come in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets, as God's Servant whose suffering and death would provide forgiveness for Jew and Gentile alike (Isaiah 42,49,50,53). His arrest was therefore ultimately not a random event caused by evil people; it was part of a larger plan that His Father had predicted and was overseeing. This is why He could calmly identify Himself to those who came to take Him into custody.

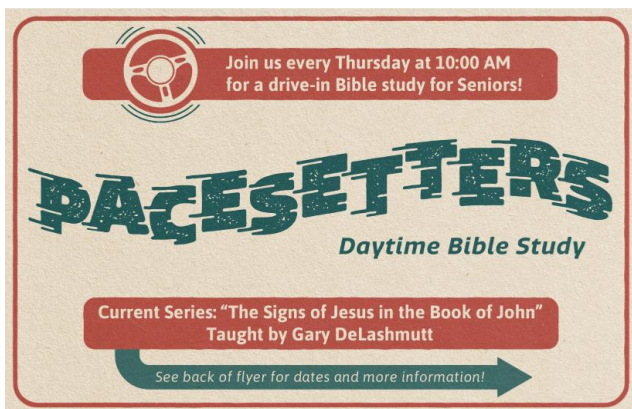
Likewise, when we belong to Jesus by faith, our lives become part of God's redemptive plan. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared beforehand, that we may walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). We may not know all



that the future holds for us, but we do know that God is never surprised, and that He will work all things into His unique plan for our lives. And such knowledge gives us courage to walk into the challenges that face us each day!

Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing to us what You knew, and for showing us how this knowledge enabled You to serve and suffer victoriously. Thank You that because we belong to You, we can know the same things that You knew, and that this knowledge can enable us to respond as You responded. Help on to focus on these great promises. Deepen our conviction of these truths so that we may live increasingly for You with love and calm courage.

**Come hear Gary in person at our Pacesetters Drive-in Bible Study!
10AM Thursdays at Dwell Main Campus**

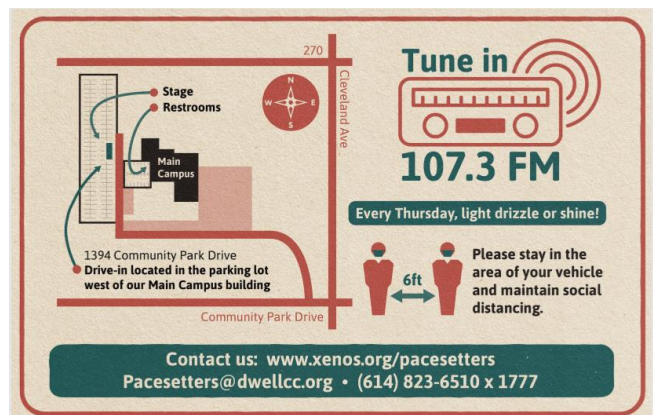


Join us every Thursday at 10:00 AM
for a drive-in Bible study for Seniors!

PACESETTERS
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Current Series: "The Signs of Jesus in the Book of John"
Taught by Gary DeLashmutt

See back of flyer for dates and more information!



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Every Thursday, light drizzle or shine!

Please stay in the area of your vehicle and maintain social distancing.

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Pacesetters@dwelcc.org • (614) 823-6510 x 1777