

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

Did you hear about the pastor that received a letter from a young man who said he had made a great discovery? He wrote, "I have made a great discovery, Almighty God had two sons. Jesus Christ was the first; and I am the second." The pastor glanced at the address at the top of the letter. The young man was writing from a well known mental hospital. There have been many pretenders to greatness and to divinity. Lunatic asylums are full of deluded people who claim to be Julius Caesar, the Prime Minister, the Emperor of Japan or Jesus Christ. But no one believes them. No one is deceived except themselves. They have no disciples, except perhaps other patients. They fail to convince other people simply because they do not seem to be what they claim to be. Their character does not support their claims. The Christian's conviction about Christ is greatly strengthened by the fact that He does appear to be who He said He was. There is no discrepancy between His words and His deeds.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

When have you been deceived by someone who turned out not to be what he or she seemed?

How did you find out the truth?

STUDY AND READ JOHN 13:1-17

1. Jesus "knew that the Father had put all things under his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God." What did he do as a result of this knowledge (vs. 3-4)?

2. How does his action contradict what we would expect a person with such knowledge to do?

3. Why do you think Peter protested at having his feet washed by Jesus?

4. Jesus exhibited both the greatest self-esteem and the greatest self-sacrifice. How are both qualities demonstrated in his menial work of washing his disciples' feet?

5. Jesus acknowledged himself as "Teacher" and "Lord" while setting the example of foot washing (vs. 13-15). How would you describe the character of that sort of Lord and Teacher?

6. Put yourself in Peter's sandals. How would you have reacted when Jesus started to wash your feet?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. How will your life be affected if you have a Lord and Teacher with the character of Jesus?

2. In order to have Jesus as your Lord and Teacher, how must he "wash" you?

Search your heart to be sure you are willing, then ask Jesus to be your Teacher and Lord.