

John 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

Analysis

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands (εἰδὼς ὅτι πάντα δέδωκεν αὐτῷ ὁ πατήρ εἰς τὰς χεῖρας)—The participle "knowing" (εἰδὼς/eidōs) indicates Jesus's full consciousness of His authority. The Father had committed "all things" (πάντα/panta)—universal authority—into Christ's hands. This echoes Matthew 28:18: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Jesus acts from a position of absolute sovereignty.

And that he was come from God, and went to God (καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ θεοῦ ἐξῆλθεν καὶ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν ὑπάγει)—Jesus's full awareness of His divine origin and destination frames the foot-washing. He who came from God's throne stoops to wash dirty feet; He who will return to glory serves as a slave. This is the ultimate statement of divine humility.

The contrast is stunning: Satan fills Judas's heart with betrayal (v.2); the Father fills Jesus's hands with authority. Judas uses proximity to Jesus for evil; Jesus uses divine authority for service. This sets up the foot-washing as the incarnation in miniature—the Lord of glory becoming a servant.

Historical Context

In first-century culture, foot-washing was performed by the lowest household servants or slaves. For a rabbi to wash his disciples' feet was unthinkable—a complete reversal of social hierarchy. Yet Jesus, knowing His divine authority,

deliberately chooses the servant's role. This embodies Philippians 2:6-8: Christ, "being in the form of God," took "the form of a servant." John places this scene where the Synoptics place the Last Supper institution, suggesting the foot-washing interprets the cross—voluntary self-humbling for others' cleansing.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's awareness of His divine authority enable (not prevent) His humble service?
2. What does it mean that the one with "all things" in His hands uses that power to wash feet rather than command armies?
3. How should our awareness of our identity in Christ shape our attitude toward serving others?

Interlinear Text

εἰδὼς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ὅτι	πάντα	δῆδωκεν	αὐτῷ	ὁ	πατήρ	
knowing	G3588	Jesus	that	all things	had given	his	G3588	the Father	
G1492		G2424	G3754	G3956	G1325	G846		G3962	
εἰς	τὰς	χεῖρας	καὶ	ὅτι	ἀπὸ	θεοῦ	ἐξῆλθεν	καὶ	πρὸς
into	G3588	hands	and	that	from	God	he was come	and	to
G1519		G5495	G2532	G3754	G575	G2316	G1831	G2532	G4314
τὸν	θεοῦ	ὑπάγει							
G3588	God	went							
	G2316	G5217							

Additional Cross-References

John 3:35 (Parallel theme): The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Matthew 28:18 (References Jesus): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

John 17:2 (Parallel theme): As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 8:42 (References Jesus): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

1 Corinthians 15:27 (Parallel theme): For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.