The Gospel of Footwashing
(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #53)
John 13:6-11

A. The washing of feet was a task reserved for the lowest of servants
B. Now the King of the Universe is on his knees washing away the life’s filth
C. Within twenty-four hours those same hands will be pierced and lifeless
   “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but you’ll understand later.” (John 13:7)

PETER’S RELUCTANCE (13:6)
A. “Jesus comes to Simon Peter: ‘Lord, are you going to washing my feet?’”
B. “Not happening!” says the oldest, proud-to-be-humble and wise Peter

JESUS’ RESPONSE (13:7)
A. Jesus is graciously patient with Peter and tells him he doesn’t understand
   1. Many find it difficult to allow Jesus to serve them at all
   2. Our conscience needs to submit to the Gospel; Jesus needs to become
      Lord of our conscience
B. Jesus forgives his disciple’s sin before they even commit it

PETER’S RESISTANCE (13:8A)
A. 13:8a - “Jesus, you will never ever wash my feet - ever!”
   1. Peter is giving the orders here (not so wise in the presence of Jesus)
   2. Peter wants to make his position perfectly clear!
   “I’m not so dirty, Jesus, that you need to wash my feet; maybe a few drops of water - but
   overall, I’m good; I’ll be fine. Don’t really need any help!” (Peter)
   “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth isn’t in us” (1 John 1:8)
B. We will never be cleansed until we confess we are dirty

JESUS’ RESOLVE (13:8B)
A. Jesus: “If I can’t forgive your sins, you can’t have my companionship”
   1. Jesus’ salvation is free (and undeserved) or it is nothing (useless)
   2. Incredibly, Jesus longs to be constantly “at our service”
   3. This simple act of foot washing illustrates the profundity of the Gospel

B. It is beyond our understanding that a sovereign God would kneel before
   his rebellious creatures and wash their feet in his hands
   1. Jesus is cleaning us, not from our dirt, but from our sins
   2. Let us resolve to be loved by the Lord, to let Jesus minister to us
   3. Without his washing (i.e., forgiveness) there can never be a relationship
      with Jesus or his Father

PETER’S REACTION (13:9)
A. 13:9 - “Peter: ‘Then, Lord, not just my feet, but also my hands and my head”
B. Why is it we can’t let Jesus just do whatever Jesus wants to do with us?

JESUS’ RESTORATION (13:10-11)
A. Jesus: “Peter, the bath I’ve given your feet is plenty; from now on, you and
   your fellow disciples, are a completely clean people. You need to know that!”
B. John reminds us this is a full Gospel presentation: invitation and warning
   1. “Clean” disciples can’t live “however they please;” they’re to live as “clean”
      people!
   2. Jesus knew they weren’t all clean, but those who were clean would
      change the world

DISCIPLE’S REPRISE
A. Sequence matters. Christ demonstrates. We imitate
   1. After Jesus finished with his towel, he hands it to us: “Now, you do it.
      Walk across the floor of your upper room and wash your Judas’ feet”
   2. Let the hands of God wipe away the dirt in your life
   3. Our forgiveness may not happen all at once; His does - that’s the Good News
B. Our forgiving will happen, because, after all, our feet are wet

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