

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