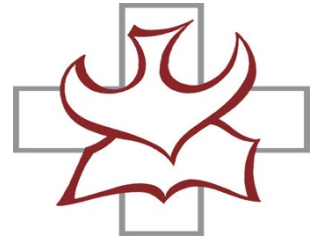


Humility “Washes Feet”



John 13:1-17 Gal 5:22-25 Rom 12:3-8

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Today we heard the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. **It's an example of humility, love, and service.** But have you really thought about how *lowly* of a service this really was?

Foot washing was a necessary act in biblical times because of the dusty roads and the sandals the people wore. *Their feet got dirty!* It would be similar to taking off your shoes before entering a house today; or washing your hands before a meal. **Can you imagine being the one washing some else's bare feet?** Just touching someone else's sweaty, dirty, bare foot is not too appealing to most people!

But yet, **JESUS, THE SON OF GOD**, did just that for 12 men and their 24 dirty, sweaty feet!

It was Maundy Thursday, the eve of Christ's crucifixion, and Jesus uses this foot washing practice to teach the disciples, (*and us!*) about **humility, love, and service to other people.**

Jesus was doing **much more** than simply washing the disciples' dirty and dusty feet. He was teaching them about **humility and service**, using Himself as the example.

The Son of God humbled Himself and came into the world to sacrificially give of Himself on a cross for all people.

The real cleansing does not happen with soap and water on Maundy Thursday; the real cleansing happens when He gives His body and sheds His blood on the cross on Good Friday.

- ✓ It is on the cross where Jesus truly humbled Himself into death;
- ✓ it is on the cross where Jesus served as our sacrifice for sin.
- ✓ It is on the cross where you are cleansed;
- ✓ it is on the cross where your *dirty sins* were washed clean and your *filthy rebellion* and *grimy immorality* was washed away from you.

Jesus humbled Himself and served as your Savior when He died on the cross. He humbled Himself for you and your salvation.

Through faith in Christ, you have been cleansed of rebellion and immorality, and now you live your life differently. The dirt and grime of sin have been washed off you in Holy Baptism. Pride, arrogance, and self-centeredness have been removed from you. In Christ, you learn humility and service to others.

"Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.** For I have given you an example, that **you also should do just as I have done to you.** John 13:12-15

This passage from Scripture teaches you to humble yourself, and to think of yourself as a servant to others. **This passage teaches you to think about other people, their needs, and how you can “wash their feet”.** How can you come alongside other people to encourage them, help them and support them?

The Lord works in and through you to do just that. By the power of His Word and the strength of His Spirit, you can encourage, help and support other people. God has gifted you and equipped you to do so. Humility is thinking about other people, their needs, and how you can “wash their feet”. There are many ways you can do that!

Think of the **Fruit of the Spirit**: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control. These virtues describe how you interact with other people in loving ways. They guide your relationships with others. The Fruit of the Spirit are ways that you have to come alongside other people to encourage, help and support them. Even this act of humility where you think about other people and their needs is a fruit of the Holy Spirit at work within you!

Think of your **Spiritual gifts**. The Lord has given you certain things that you are good at --- gifts that you are to use in loving service to other people. Your gifts, talents, knowledge, and skills help other people and show that you love and care for them. Use your spiritual gifts to encourage, help, and support other people.

Think of your **Time, Treasure, and Talents**. The way you manage your life is important; and it reflects your faith in Christ. Your time, treasure and talents are all tools the Lord has given to you help other people; to come alongside others to serve and love them. Every second of your time, every penny of your treasure, and every ounce of your talent is a gift from God's good hand to you. These are resources God has given to you to love and care for other people!

Our service to other people is motivated by the Lord Jesus Christ, it is driven by God the Holy Spirit, and it is done to the glory of God the Father!

It is distinctively Christian! Even unbelievers can be kind and helpful and supportive. Even pagans use their time, talents and treasure to support any number of causes in the world. *But your service is different.* Your service to others is distinctively Christ-centered. Be sure to share your faith and let your light shine when you serve other people. Talk about the faith; share the Gospel; pray with the people you are interacting with. **Make sure your service to others is distinctively Christ-centered!**

Our service to other people is motivated by the Lord Jesus Christ, it is driven by God the Holy Spirit, and it is done to the glory of God the Father!

Serving other people is **God at work within you!** Serving other people is a sign of humility; it is laying aside your pride and your self-centeredness and thinking about other people and what you can do to encourage, help and support them.

Jesus teaches us that *humility washes feet*.

Once you understand what that means, it becomes a joy in your life. Serving others becomes your drive, and your passion, and your purpose. You look past yourself to see needs that other people have. You look for ways to come alongside other people to encourage them, help them, and support them. It becomes a joy in your life!

But remember: ***Humility washes feet*.**

Sometimes you might have to roll up your sleeves and do some unpleasant things. You might get dirty. You might be uncomfortable. You might not enjoy everything. You might have to make sacrifices. But serving others is not about you; it is about helping others.

***Humility washes feet...* BECAUSE JESUS “WASHED YOUR FEET” when He gave His body and shed His blood on the cross for you!!**

Humble service to others is motivated by Christ and His love for you. The One who gave up His life so that you are cleansed from sin is now at work so you can humbly serve others.

You have the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

You have been given Spiritual gifts.

You have been blessed with time, treasure and talents.

The One who gave up His life so that you are cleansed from sin is now at work so you can humbly serve others. As Jesus said, “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them!” John 13:17

Amen!