

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

33) Spiritual Foot Washing

'Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded'

(John 13:1-5)

- ✓ **This took place the day before the Passover, i.e. the night of the betrayal and arrest. The Last Supper was the night before the Passover when the Passover lamb was killed. It preceded the Passover by 24 hours**
- ✓ **The disciples were 'His own' because His Father gave them to Him. *'And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand'* (John 10:28-29)**

'I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word... I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled'

(John 17:6, 9-12)

- ✓ **'To the end', *teleios* the fullest extent; the uttermost. 'He showed them the full extent of His love' (NIV '84)**
- ✓ **What is the full extent of His love? 'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends' (John 15:13)**
- ✓ **Judas' betrayal was a selling of himself to Satan, 'Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly"' (John 13:27)**
- ✓ **Jesus, knew His divine origin and His destiny, yet it didn't make Him treat others in an inferior way. Rather, it made Him treat others well**

- ✓ **Having come straight from the street to the banquet room, the custom was that a servant would wash the feet of the guests. But the meeting was secret, so there was no servant**
- ✓ **So, who would wash the feet of all who were present?**
- ✓ **During the meal, Jesus rose and removed His outer cloak, tied a towel around His waist and *began* to wash the feet of the disciples, including Judas. It was a shock and a rebuke to the disciples**
- ✓ **This was a picture of coming from heaven to this earth to save us**

'Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean"'

(John 13:6-11)

- ✓ **Peter strongly objects to this. He uses two words, one a double negative, which could be translated, 'No! Never at all! Not to all eternity will you wash my feet!'**
- ✓ **Jesus replied that if He wouldn't allow Him to wash his feet, he would not be included with Him in ministry**
- ✓ **Peter went to the opposite extreme and replied, 'Then bath me too!' Jesus replied that he was already bathed and only needed to wash his feet**

- ✓ **The 2 cleansings are illustrated in the brazen altar and laver. We need both blood and water for cleansing. Both came from the side of Jesus**
- ✓ **At the altar of Calvary, we were washed completely from all sin, 'And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God' (1 Cor.6:10). '...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit' (Titus 3:5)**

- ✓ ***'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin' (1 Jn.1:7). Nothing but the blood can cleanse us from sin. 'But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God...For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified' (Heb.10:12&14). The NT knows nothing of a re-application of the blood, or of sinning Christians needing to be washed in it or in anything again***
- ✓ ***So what does the washing of feet resemble? It is a picture of particular cleansing though the Word of God. 'Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word' (Eph.5:25-26). 'Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth' (Jn.17:17)***

Then what does the Word cleanse?

'Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water'

(Heb.10:19-22)

The cleansing of the blood is applied to our consciences by the water of the Word

'For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God'
(Heb.9:13-14)

***When Aaron and his sons were consecrated, they were bathed all over (Ex. 29:4). But at the laver, it was only their hands and feet which were daily cleansed (Ex. 30:19, 21). One was done for them, the other they did themselves**

***The laver was made from the looking-glasses (mirrors) which were given by the women of Israel as free-will offerings (Ex.38:8). The Word of God is depicted by a mirror**

***It is also by the washing of the water of the Word that we are transformed, *'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord'* (2 Cor.3:18)**

'...if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does'

(James 1:23-25)

***But what is meant by 'no part with me'? It is a reference to fellowship with Jesus in His ministry
'Mary hath chosen that good part' (Luke 10:42)**

***If Peter didn't understand the significance of what Jesus did how could he have part in this ongoing ministry to the church? Peter would understand this after the resurrection**

***What Jesus did here remained in Peter's mind and heart. Decades later, when he wrote to Christians about humility, he said: *'Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility* (1 Pete.5:5)**

'So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, 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 should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them'

(John 13:12-17)

***If He, their leader, had humbled Himself to be a servant to them, so they were to do for one another**

***It is not foot washing as such, but serving one another in this way that is important. There is blessing for those who do this**

***Anything we do for each another that washes away the grime of the world and the dirt of defeat and discouragement is spiritual foot washing**