

# THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

## (A Study of the Gospel of John)

### Wash... and Be Washed

TEXT: John 13:1-17

INTRODUCTION: Jesus taught the most amazing things in simple but memorable ways. In the text we are examining together today in John 13, Jesus does a “twofer,” you know – two for the price of one, except in this case, what Jesus does is absolutely free.

See if you can catch both of His teachings as we watch this re-enactment of this action style teaching of the Master.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufaUNGSbYE8>

Can you imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus began to wash their feet one by one?

**Pastor washes the feet of one of the men in the congregation.**

Now, let me ask you again, “Can you imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus began to wash their feet one by one?” I mean, how did you feel when I went and washed Bro. Windell’s feet?

- Were you hoping I would come wash your feet next?
- Or were you glad you were in the middle of the pew so it would be hard to get to you?

And that’s the way you felt, and I am only your pastor. If Jesus is an 11 on a scale of 1 to 10 measuring importance, I am in the negative numbers. Yet, most of you did not want me to come wash your feet.

I will tell you how I think the disciples felt: Overwhelmed!

- Overwhelmed that the Son of God would humble Himself and take off His robe and wrap Himself in a towel in their presence.
- Overwhelmed that the Spotless Lamb of God would put His hands on their filthy feet.
- Overwhelmed that in spite of their unworthiness, their Teacher and Lord continued to pour so much of Himself into each of them.

Their reaction to Jesus was both appropriate and worth imitating.

Let Jesus' disciples be an example to us, and let us communicate in silent prayer to our Lord that we are overwhelmed

- At His grace
- At His love
- At His kindness

Now, let me ask you. Did you get the message? Did you understand what Jesus is teaching through His dramatic action? We read it clearly beginning in verse 13.

John 13:13–17 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 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. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus said in essence, "As I have washed your feet, you wash others feet."

Jesus said, "I have given you an example. **As I have served you, you should serve others.**"

## **I. AS I HAVE SERVED YOU, YOU SHOULD SERVE OTHERS.**

**A. This was the message of Jesus to James and John when their mother asked that they be given places of honor in Christ's Kingdom.**

Matthew 20:25–28 25 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**B. Serving others means humbling ourselves.**

- **Jesus' taking off His outer robe was humbling.**
- **To serve others we often have to lay aside signs of honor and privilege.**
  - **Put aside titles.**
  - **Dress down.**
  - **Become a very ordinary man or woman.**

**C. Serving others means getting on our knees.**

How else do you wash feet?

Serving others sometimes requires us to literally get on our knees.

Serving other always requires us to figuratively get on our knees.

**D. Serving others is often dirty, stinky work.**

On Palestinian roads, nothing got dirtier than feet.

Because of that, nothing got stinkier either.

**E. Serving others is not a repudiation of leadership.**

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

**1. Jesus was not saying,**

- I cannot be Messiah.
- I cannot be the Son of God.
- I cannot be the Savior of the world.
- I cannot sit on Heaven's throne at the right hand of the Father.

**No, He was saying**

- As Messiah I will die for their sins.
- As Son of God I will make them children of God.
- As Savior I will deliver them from sin and death.
- While seated on Heaven's throne I will be their advocate, declaring to the Father, "Their sin debt is paid in full."

**2. Being a Christian leader is not the antithesis of being a Christian servant.**

**Genuine Christian leadership is performed through service.**

Jesus said, "As I washed, now you wash."

"As I served, now you serve."

By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus taught us to serve others, regardless of our position or responsibilities.

But He taught us something else also. It was right in the middle of the foot washing.

John 13:6–11 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 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." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!" 10 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." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

**Jesus said, "Wash!"**

**He also said, "Be washed!"**

In fact, the latter was so important that Jesus told Peter that if he did not permit the Master to wash his feet, then Peter would have no part in Jesus, or as our re-enactment clip put it, "You cannot be My disciple."

**What did Jesus mean when He told Peter that he had to have his feet washed to continue being the Lord's disciple?**

We should note, **Jesus referred to two types of washing, two types of cleansing.**

<b>Bathing</b>	<b>Completely clean</b>	<b>Done once</b>	<b>Pictures salvation</b>  <b>Note that Jesus said, "Not all of you are clean."</b>
<b>Foot washing</b>	<b>Cleans the soiled parts because of walking in dirty places</b>	<b>Needs repeating</b>	<b>Pictures an additional cleansing needed repeatedly</b>

## **II. JESUS IS SHOWING US THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF FORGIVENESS.**

John 13:6-11 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 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." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!" 10 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." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

Notice that Jesus makes a clear distinction between the bath and the foot washing. Equally clear is that He is talking about more than a physical cleansing. Jesus is talking about being clean before the Lord. He is talking about being forgiven.

### **A. The bath pictures RELATIONSHIP FORGIVENESS.**

**(It restores the broken relationship between God and man caused by sin.)**

1. Jesus indicates that the bath pictures eternal forgiveness in that the only one of the 12 apostles who did not have it was Judas who would betray Him.

**John 13:10-11** 10 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." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

2. This is the forgiveness we are given and keep forever when we come to faith in Christ. We talked about this with the precious promise Jesus made to those who are saved that no one could snatch them out of His hand and they would never perish.

**Colossians 2:13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

**1 John 2:12** I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

### **B. The washing of the feet pictures FELLOWSHIP FORGIVENESS.**

**(The restoration of fellowship between the offender and the offended.)**

1. This is the forgiveness we practice with family.

a. When a child sins against a parent or a parent against a child,  
When a brother sins against a sister or a sister against a brother,

b. The sin does not end the relationship.

They are still family.

c. They may not be a happy family.

There is animosity.

There is not the closeness that has been felt before.

There is not good communication.

There is not blessing.

They are in relationship.

They are not in fellowship!

2. Jesus uses the foot washing to picture fellowship forgiveness,

John 13:8 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."

3. This is the forgiveness that is continually available to everyone who believes.

1 John 1:6-9 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### III. HOW TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP FORGIVENESS

Colossians 1:13-14 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

#### A. The penalty for sin is the second death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### B. Jesus paid the death penalty for us (by the blood of the cross).

#### C. Whoever trusts Christ is forgiven eternally for his/her sin.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

### IV. HOW TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP FORGIVENESS

#### A. Confess your sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When Jesus taught us to pray, He taught us to say to the Father

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

Did you notice something else along with asking God to forgive us?

We are at the same time to forgive those who have sinned against us.

#### B. Forgive others

1. Fellowship forgiveness is available to every believer who will confess his sin.

## 2. But God withholds restoration of fellowship to those who will not forgive others.

### a. This truth is oft repeated in the Scriptures:

Matthew 6:14-15 14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Folks, this is no minor theme in Holy Scripture.

As it is a major problem in human relationships because people

- Offend each other
- Hurt each other
- Are unkind, even mean, to each other
- Sin against each other often

Jesus says to we who are His followers that healing fellowship with people who do things against us is necessary for our fellowship with Him to be sweet and right.

Mark 11:25-26 25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

**CONCLUSION:** Wow! How much Jesus packed into a simple action! And it probably did not take Him as long to wash the feet of all the disciples as it took me to preach the sermon about it. But that's OK. He is Master and Lord, and He always does it better.

**But now it is left to us to act upon what Christ showed us.**

**Wash!**

**Be washed!**

**Wash – Serve others**

- **In humility**
- **In lowly service**
- **Even doing the dirty work**

### **Be washed**

- **Be saved**
- **Live in close fellowship with the Lord**
  - **By confessing sin**
  - **By forgiving others**

INVITATION: What do you need to do this morning to be obedient?

Be saved?

You are saved, but fellowship with the Lord is frayed?

- Confess sin
- Tell God you forgive the one who sinned against you. Then later, if they know you were angry with them, tell them you have forgiven them. If you sinned against them, ask them to forgive you. Seek restoration.