

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

November 7, 2021

Servanthood is marked with:

Humility (dying to self)

The Bible describes humility as meekness, lowliness, and absence of self. The Greek word translated “humility” in Colossians 3:12 and elsewhere literally means “lowliness of mind,” so we see that humility is a heart attitude, not merely an outward demeanor. One may put on an outward show of humility but still have a heart full of pride and arrogance. Jesus said that those who are “poor in spirit” would have the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3). Being poor in spirit means that only those who admit to an absolute bankruptcy of spiritual worth will inherit eternal life. Therefore, humility is a prerequisite for the Christian.¹

The feet washing was often done as people came into the house and it was done by the servant of the house, it was a job for the lowest of the lowest. Unlike today’s time, folks did a lot of walking, there were no fancy cushioned tennis shoes with great arch supports. Feet were either dusty and sweaty or muddy and caked, sometimes caked with more than just dirt from the road.

Imagine today if I said, “Church, take off your shoes, I’m washing your feet.”

“Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.” **Luke 9:48**

Remember, the disciples (when Jesus was about to die) were worried about who would sit at His right hand.

Humility really is simply dying to myself.

Repentance

Washing feet was a picture of repentance. This is why Jesus told Peter he didn’t need to be all washed because he was clean and said that all were clean, all except one.

The person who is a true servant knows repentance well. They see their depravity. They constantly recognize their need for Jesus and only the hope He can bring.

Messiness

If you are going to serve and love on people it is going to get messy, I PROMISE!!!

Just think of the messiness that Jesus dealt with from the woman at the well, Lazarus and his family, the disciples, and the woman caught in adultery.

Servanthood is messy, there is no other way around it. Anytime you get involved with other people it is going to get messy.

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-humility.html>

Enemies

Jesus washed Judas' feet knowing that in almost the next moment Judas would betray Him. Can you imagine that, serving someone knowing in almost the next moment they would carry out an action that would begin your death?

Obedience

Follow the example of Jesus.

*¹² 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? 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. **John 13:12-17***

So who is a servant? Every Christ follower!

*Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. **Luke 9:23***

So how can you and I be a servant?

First, know God thru Jesus.

To our Family

To our Church

To our Coworkers

To our Neighbors

To our Community

*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. **Matthew 20:27-28***

Prayer Focus:

Am I a Christ follower?

Am I following His example?

What is a tangible way I can be a servant today?