

JESUS WASHES CLEAN

I. [John 13:1-20](#)

A. All four Gospels tell us about the Last Supper, the Passover meal that became the first Communion. The Apostle John dedicates five chapters to the setting of the Last Supper (*The Upper Room Discourse - Chapters 13-17*). While John doesn't focus on the Bread & Cup like Matthew, Mark, & Luke, he gives us an amazing sense of what Jesus' heart was towards His disciples and all those who would follow them.

B. Have any of you actually been the part of a foot washing service? In high school, some of us went on a youth retreat and the weekend culminated with a foot washing. Mark and I have a good friend who knows this was the pivotal moment when Christ reached into his heart and made our friend His own.

C. [John 13:1-20](#) (ESV) captures this foot-washing event for all of us:

1) **V1: 1** *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (Despite their bumbling, fumbling, and stumbling, Jesus loved these men with all His heart. The immense love He'd demonstrate the next day on the cross, began with a basin of water on this solemn night.)*

2) **V2-5: 2** *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. 5 Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. (Washing the feet of one's guests was the task of a lowly servant and yet Jesus assumed that role. We dare not consider any service below us.)*

3) **V6-9: 6** *He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." (humility & pride hold hands) Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" (Which takes more humility, washing someone's feet or allowing someone to wash your feet? What could be more humbling than the Son of God stooping down to wash your feet?)*

4) **V10-20: 10** *Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." 11 For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, 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 also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen.*

But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate My bread has lifted his heel against Me.' (Psalm 41:9) 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me."

D. Let's consider some things together...

1) Most of the church doesn't consider foot washing a sacrament but Jesus does say those who do so will be blessed. We, therefore, need not be critical of the few churches and denominations who actually practice foot washing.

2) It's also fair to say there are more ways to *wash one another's feet* than actually washing one another's feet. There are countless ways of humbling ourselves to serve one another. And there are multiple ways of humbling ourselves to allow someone to minister to us. Therefore, we will be *blessed* either way.

3) Jesus chose all twelve disciples, even the one who would betray Him. Judas' betrayal didn't take Jesus by surprise. Nothing ever does. How worthless did those 30 pieces of silver feel when the Son of God began washing Judas' feet? Then he went out and hung himself but that changed little with regard to his soul. Remember Jesus' cryptic warning, "Fear *Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*"

4) That same night the ever-so-brash Peter would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed on that first Good Friday. Jesus predicted he would. (*John records Jesus' prophecy in Chapter 13 and chronicles Peter's denials in Chapter 18.*) But thankfully Peter would be restored. How beautiful, how precious, how humbling it is when Christ forgives us, restores us, picks us up when we fall! Mercy is not something to which we're entitled so we must relish every morsel He bestows upon us.

5) Jesus to Peter, but also to us: "*If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.*" Jesus cleansed their dirty feet with water. But He cleansed them and cleansed us from sin the next day by His blood shed on the cross. Hear the old hymn again: "*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*" This brings us all to the Lord's Table...

II. Communion

*** As we take the Bread & Cup this morning, let me ask you to take on a posture of reverence. Please quiet your souls. Don't let Communion be an empty ritual. Take it instead with the same posture that the disciples assumed when Jesus began washing their feet. Take it with the same receptive hearts they had when He broke the Bread and passed the Cup on that solemn and holy night. In washing their feet, Jesus was pointing to the sacrifice He'd make the next day, telling them, and telling us, that the sacrifice He was about to make was to atone for our sins, to wash them away, to make us clean forevermore. "*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*"**

*** Pray & Serve Communion...**

*** John 13:34-35 (ESV) will take us all home: 34** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35* **By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (May the Lord bless you to love one another and serve one another in growing measure...)**

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

John 13:1-20 (ESV)

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. **2** During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, **4** rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. **5** Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." **8** Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." **11** For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean." **12** When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? **13** You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, 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 also should do just as I have done to you. **16** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. **18** I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate My bread has lifted his heel against Me.' **19** I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. **20** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me."

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Nothing But The Blood

By Robert Lowry, 1876

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

[Video Clips & Important Articles](#)

"Nothing But The Blood of Jesus" - Micah Phifer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJt5ZdjblsQ>

Are You Going To Wash My Feet?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq3DDYVBYvk>

What was the Significance of Jesus Washing the Feet of the Disciples? GotQuestions.org
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L11aniUYocw>

Dear Church-Don't Overlook or Undervalue the Elderly - Josh Buice
<http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/dear-church-dont-overlook-and-undervalue-the-elderly/>

The Problem with Having No Defined Church Membership - Stephen Kneale
<https://stephenkneale.com/2020/01/22/the-problem-of-having-no-defined-membership/>

Belong To A Church - John Piper
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8EIN2syoTs>

[Bonus Stuff](#)

Philippians 2:1-11 (NASB)

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, **2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 10:40-42 (ESV)

40 "Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. **41** The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. **42** And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Theological Note on John 13:8-10

NKJV Study Bible

"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." (NKJV)

13:8 no part with Me: The washing was a symbol of spiritual cleansing (vv. 10, 11). If Peter did not participate in the cleansing, he would not enjoy fellowship with Christ (see 1 John 1:9).

13:9, 10 but also my hands and my head: Given Jesus' dramatic statement, Peter had no choice but to submit. Only this time he went too far in the other direction. At first he wanted to tell the Lord what to do (v.8). Now he wanted to dictate the manner in which Jesus did it. But Jesus told him he did not need a bath; he only need Jesus **to wash his feet** that were dusty from the road. This is symbolic. A believer has already been "cleansed." He or she only needs the cleansing of daily sins that comes through

confession (see 1 John 1:9). Thus Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet not only is a model of service, but it represents the ultimate in service--forgiveness of sins.

- Theological Note on John 13:8-10, *NKJV Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson, p. 1686.

Are You Washed in the Blood?

Words & Music By Elisha A. Hoffman - Cleveland, Ohio 1878

"They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." - Revelation 7:14

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain:

Are you washed in the blood,

In the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?

Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,

And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,

And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;

There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,

O be washed in the blood of the Lamb!