

"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." –  
John 13:8

**I. A Great Lesson is Taught (Not the Outward, but the Inward)**

- a. Judas, the traitor, was among the disciples who had their feet washed. The mere cleansing of feet does not join us to Jesus. What is required is a spiritual cleansing. (John 6:64-71)
- b. Salvation brings us into *union* with Christ. The verb *wash* (v.10) suggests being settled once and for all, but our *communion* with Christ depends on the continuous cleansing by His Word. (Jam 1:27)
- c. As we walk in this world it is easy to become defiled. God promises to cleanse us. (1 John 1:9)
- d. O.T. priestly illustrations of consecration (Ex 29:4) and daily cleansing (Ex 30:18-21).
- e. The spiritual washing is absolutely essential to all His people, the foot-washing is secondary.
- f. *If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me.* Reflect on that for a moment. If Jesus did not serve you, you will not share in the kingdom.
- g. *Sine Qau Non*, without which it could not be, an essential condition.

**II. Humbleness, Holiness, Then Happiness**

- a. The world thinks that happiness is the result of others serving us, but real joy comes when we serve others in the name of Jesus.
- b. In ancient days, the physical washing of feet was a menial task for the lowliest of servants.
  1. The Romans had no use for humility, and the Greeks despised manual labor.
- c. *Serve one another, as I have served you.* What does this tell us about service?
- d. His disciples should be ready to perform the humblest service for one another. No act of service should be beneath them. They are not to stand on their dignity or think too highly of themselves.
- e. Jesus could have commanded their service. Instead, He served them. If the *Master* becomes a slave, where does that put the slave? (v.16)
  1. By becoming a servant the Lord did not push us down, He lifted us up.
  2. He dignified sacrifice and service through a personal act of intimacy. (The ministry of touching)
- f. He washed the feet of a doubter. The proud and the headstrong. Though we are saved, our service to one another draws us into communion with Christ and to one another. (Read v.20)
- g. *For I have given you an example.* (v.15) What is our response to this loving example?
  1. There will always be need of service in the church.
  2. Church leaders should be familiar with humble service.
  3. We should never despise or turn our backs on lowly service.
  4. Our service should be done thoroughly and cheerfully, because the *Master* is watching "the *how* and the *why*."
  5. We serve out of love *for* Christ, then *for* our sisters/brothers. *I am my brother's keeper.*

**III. Application of the Word**

- a. A great person is one who makes others feel great, and Jesus did this with His disciples by *teaching them to serve*.
- b. Be sure to keep these lessons in the proper sequence. Humbly submit to the Lord, keep your life clean, and serve others. Then you will experience true spiritual joy that no one can take from you.