

Jesus Washed Feet, Should We?

In John 13, after Jesus had instituted the Lord's Supper, we find that he washed his disciples' feet (vs. 4-16). Many times the question arises, "Since Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, should we not wash one another's feet?" Some in the denominational world have used this as justification to have a "foot washing service" as a part of the worship to God.

Washing feet is also mentioned in Luke 7 where a woman washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped them with her hair. Then it is mentioned in 1 Timothy 5 as one of the deeds that would characterize some widows.

The usual mode of travel in Jesus' day was walking. The roads and pathways were usually dusty. One of the signs of hospitality in that time was to wash (or, have a servant to wash) the feet of a guest when they arrived in your house. This seems to be the thought in Luke 7 and seems to be given as a symbol of hospitality in 1 Timothy 5. It is certain that the lesson Jesus taught in John 13 was that of humility and service.

Saints still need to be humble in the sight of God (James 4:10) and in this humility be willing to do anything they can to relieve the distress of another - including washing their body (not just feet). We should show hospitality to those who visit us, but washing another's feet is not necessarily the only way to manifest this. And, we all (not just widows) should be active in doing good deeds.

To go through a ceremony of washing another's feet when they don't need washing is NOT a show of humility nor godliness. So far as I can see it is NOT something to be done in worship to God.

Let us leave it as the Bible does - a symbol of hospitality and good works. Let us manifest hospitality in other ways and do all good works expected by God - but let us not fall into a ritual of washing feet in applying the Scripture improperly.

- by J. F. Dancer, Jr.

An Important Key in Solving Marriage Problems

There have been times when I have been called in to "referee" a marital dispute only to realize after hours of discussion that the real solution to the marriage problems was contained in The Golden Rule. If husbands and wives would really absorb what Jesus said and apply it to their situations, many problems would vanish immediately. Is there any husband so bold as to deny that he often acts selfishly, thinking only of his own wants and needs, with little attention to those of his wife? Can any wife deny that a similar blindness on her part is more than a little to blame in many disputes? If each of the marriage partners would 'wear the shoes' of their mates, they would see the need of 'doing unto others as we would have them do unto us' (as it is commonly paraphrased). No marriage counselor on earth could give better advice than to press home the meaning of these words to feuding husbands and wives.

- by Tom Roberts

Does He Mean This Much to You?

Some people never grow too old, or too tired; nor do they live too far from the meeting house to be present for every service. The weather never gets too hot, or too cold, as long as travel is possible. It is never too dry, never too wet, but that some people make arrangements to be at worship.

Do you think it is strange that people should act that way? Not at all. They attend services because of their relation to Christ. To them He is more than life or death, joys or sorrows; more than earthly comfort, entertainment or earthly gain. Christ is their all in all.

Such people do not have to tell their neighbors how much they love the Lord. Everyone knows that they do by the way they live. The apostle Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21) "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of Him who loved me and gave

Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

-via Old Paths II, Jamestown, IN

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

We love to sing, "*When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.*" Those words express confidence — not doubt and uncertainty. And rightly so, because God wants us to have confidence about our salvation. John said we can *know* we have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

But we need to keep that confidence in balance. It must not turn into complacency. Paul warned, "Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Our assurance is not based on emotional feelings or past accomplishments, but on continuing to walk in the light and obey the Lord (1 John 1:8-10).

The hymn also expresses a second vital truth — determination. "Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun... let us talk of all His wondrous love and care." This is the language of commitment. Jesus said, "He who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). We don't quit. We don't drift. We stay at it.

So when we sing, "*When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there,*" let it be more than just familiar words. Let it reflect a life that is trusting God, obeying His will, and pressing forward with unwavering purpose — all the way to the end.

- by Greg Gwin