

## HE WASHED OUR FEET THAT WE MAY WASH EACH OTHER'S

**John 13:8** *Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.*

**John 13:14** *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*

**John 13:15** *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

Just think about your feet for a moment. Consider trying to move your body without the aid of your feet. Neither our head, hands, knees or back can substitute for our feet when it comes to moving the entire body effectively. The head, hands, thighs etc. don't seem to do much of use for the feet, so to speak, as the feet do in carrying all of the other members. Think now about a day or time when you walked around for several hours. Do you remember the ache you felt in your feet? There is a perfectly good reason shopping malls have cafés, sitting areas and benches spread around – they are meant for our aching feet. Let us take a moment to appreciate the job our feet do now and then! No wonder there are some who treat their feet to a well-deserved foot massage or foot bath. They work very hard for the rest of the body. Once we highlight the role feet play in our everyday, it becomes easier to appreciate the biblical culture of washing the feet of honored guests and travelers.

**Gen 18:4** *Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree*

**Luke 7:44** *And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.*

Now in our Bible study today, we find a truly shocking and profoundly humbling incident. We cannot but approach it with the utmost awe and love for what the Lord Jesus did. Jesus is God, and yet he lowered himself like a common servant and personally washed the feet of his Apostles, including Judas who would betray him. Jesus washed their feet because the feet stand for the entire body. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:5-7). It is easy to condemn and insult a thief, but Jesus washed the feet of Judas without mentioning his sin. Saint of God, you may think you have a legitimate reason for not loving and serving your brother or sister in Christ, but the Lord has settled the matter – he insisted on washing everyone's feet without passing any judgment on anyone.

Help us Jesus to follow your example and wash each other's feet without judgement or preference!

Next, and most importantly, Jesus washed their feet because their feet would take his Gospel to the entire world. The feet represent the mobility that is inherent in the Gospel. The Lord anointed their feet and prepared their feet for Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Antioch, Ephesus, Athens, Rome and the ends of the earth. Our feet have been also washed through the Apostles – remember that we call ourselves Apostolic Christians. “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom 10:15). Jesus washed their feet and said later, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt 28:19). How many miles did the feet of the Apostles cover in preaching the Gospel? When their feet were exhausted and ached, they must have remembered how the good Lord washed and blessed their feet.

I am convinced that those who labor in the Gospel experience miraculous healing in their feet because the mission is from heaven. No wonder David declared, “He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places” (Psalm 18:33). Having visited the wilderness of Engedi where David sought to hide from king Saul, I can understand why the Lord made his feet as hinds' feet. David needed supernatural help in this barren and desolate place. I say this because the children of Israel's feet did not swell during the forty years in the wilderness, and they were roaming around cursed until their carcasses would fall. How much more will the feet of those who preach the Gospel be blessed!

*Neh 9:21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.*

Why don't you touch your feet as we pray by faith now and declare that your feet will be blessed as you proclaim the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ! Interestingly, the kingdom of the antichrist that Daniel saw in his vision appeared invincible until we are told that it had feet of iron and clay. “His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay” (Dan 2:33). It is the Lord Jesus who is the stone that destroyed the image by aiming for the feet. “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces” (Dan 2:34). Every work of the Devil has feet of clay, and the “stone”, Jesus, will destroy the feet of clay. Jesus is a specialist in destroying the body of dust and clay. Even the Lord washing away the dust from the Apostles' feet points to baptism in Jesus' name. The feet stood for the entire body.

***John 13:10*** *Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.*

It is the same Lord Jesus who enters the waters of baptism and washes away the body of dust inherited from Adam. The feet stand for the entire body of dust, as I said earlier, and points to baptism in Jesus' name. "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Col 2:11,12). Yes, Jesus has washed not only our feet, but our entire bodies in his name in the waters of baptism.

In conclusion, is there anyone tired in the journey to heaven tonight? That's fine! It is human to be tired. Rest assured, however, that the Lord Jesus is here today to refresh your feet. If you say that you are dead and there is no hope for you, I have some good news. Remember the valley of dry bones of Ezekiel! God not only brought the body parts together, he made them stand on their feet. "So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezek 37:10). Jesus washes our feet so we can stand like an army for his glory. Abraham was concerned for the feet of the Lord, but the Lord washed our feet. Jesus has washed, anointed and blessed our feet that we may bless each other's feet on the journey to heaven. Remember this sermon when we wash each other's feet in a few weeks' time for the Lord's Supper. Consider each other's feet! Ask your brother and sister, "How is your feet? Rest here and I will wash and refresh your feet!" May the Lord bless your feet and give you renewed energy to continue on your journey to heaven! He washed our feet that we may wash one another's!