Basin-ology

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

**Introduction:** There are two types of people that I want to talk about today. These two types of people can be defined by how they use a wash basin. You’ve met these people. You’ve worked with them. You’ve even went to church with them. Both types of people are a part of every congregation.

**Pilate’s Basin:** We find this basin in Matthew 27:24 Where we read:

“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tum-

ult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multi-

tude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to

it.” I remember the first time that I became acquainted with this type

of person. He was a teenage boy who constantly used a phrase that I

have never forgotten. Every time anyone would ask or tell him to do

something he would respond with the same question: “What’s in it for

me?” He would happily do chores as long as he could be convinced

that there was a benefit in it for himself. Throw him cash and he would

jump through hoops for you.

Pilate was a man of excellent insight. He was aware that the Jewish

leaders looked on him with contempt. He knew that he was on a tight

rope with Rome. He knew that his relationship with Herod was poor.

He knew that Jesus was a polarizing figure but he also knew that Jesus

had committed no crime. He knew that the Jewish leaders just didn’t

like Jesus. With all that he knew He also was aware that a word

spoken to the wrong person could cost him his life and/or position.

Pilate was a man with a choice to make. He could courageously do

the right thing and set Jesus free. He could pawn the problem off on

another person (he tried but Herod sent Jesus back). Or he could

authorize the murder of one who he knew to be innocent.

*The Jewish leaders are afraid that Pilate will let Jesus go*. Pilate is

afraid that Caesar will be unhappy with his leadership. *Pilates wife is*

*afraid because she had a scary dream about Jesus*. The disciples are

afraid that Jesus will die and their expectations will be shattered.

Pilate chooses to wash his hands in a basin while pointing the finger of

blame at someone else. His hand washing was his way of abdicating

responsibility for his actions. Do you think that God saw it the way

Pilate did? Have we ever tried to evade responsibility to help others?

**Jesus Basin:** is found in John 13:4-5: “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.”

Jesus also took a basin of water and dipped His hands into it as well. The contrast here is obvious but since I’m pretty good at the obvious let me point it out. Whereas Pilate was abdicating responsibility… Jesus was taking responsibility. Whereas Pilate was trying to save face…Jesus was deliberately humbling Himself.

The job of wiping the dust from the feet of a traveler fell to the low-est and least experienced slave. For Jesus to assume this position is the ultimate picture of self-abasement. Jesus is demonstrating how to lead from the knees.

Peter is aghast! His savior, on His knees, in front of Peter? This will never do. He tells Jesus: “Thou shalt never wash my feet.” (Let me throw in some free advice here) It’s not good to tell Jesus what He cannot do. Jesus wants Peter to see a bigger picture here. The followers of Christ are about to see a lesson of how they should treat each other.

Take your basin and use it to serve others. Just as Jesus has washed you (if you’re saved then He did wash you). You are to help in the cleansing process of those who are placed in your life.

Where did the dirt on their feet come from? It came from walking the dusty roads. It came; not from evil intent or evil doing, it came just from walking through the world that we live in. So it is with our brothers and sisters in Christ. They live in this world and even though they are not intending to get dirty the dirt of this world ends up on their feet anyway. So it is that, without condemnation, the brother or sister in Christ helps them clean up.

**Conclude:** The situation is this – we each have our basin. Are you using your basin to abdicate your responsibility or are you using it to help your brothers and sisters?