

Wash Me All Over

John 13:3-9

➤ Introduction

Read John 13: 3-9

This picture represents one of the most fascinating acts of our Lord. I have always marveled at the story of this event. To me, this was an extremely radical action on the part of Christ. Our Lord is the Son of God. He was in fact God in the flesh and he performed many miracles for the specific purpose of showing that He was who He said He was. He gave sight to the blind, healed the sick, cast out demons from a man into swine and even raised people from the dead.

But, this act of washing the feet of the disciples is the most amazing act of all to me. I know that I do not fully understand the extent of what He was communicating to the disciples. I have read numerous commentaries and opinions on this text and I do not believe others fully understand it either.

➤ Making Sense of His Action and Words

It is unfortunate that some people narrowly interpret the Lord to think they are to perform this step as an act of obedience or as a sacrament. This is not a story about foot washing. It is an act on the part of Jesus Christ to make the disciples understand some key principals about their relationship with God. I am confident that I will learn and grow from this story my entire life. Today, let's look at some of the principals we can learn from this amazing event.

1. Observe His Humility

Humility comes out of strength not weakness.

So often we associate humility with weak, feeble and inferior people. Here Jesus teaches us differently. He shatters our concepts of humility.

Washing the feet of guests was not something that the host or even the Jewish slaves did. Only the lowest slaves, the gentile slaves did the foot washing. This was a task reserved for the lowest of human beings.

Christ was the Son of God. He was God in the flesh. With all of the great and amazing things He could have done, He washes the feet of those present.

Christ teaches us that true humility comes from the strong not the weak. True humility involves a choice, a decision to serve others when we do not have to. Humility is a conscientious choice made by only the strongest of heart.

As Christians, Christ provided the perfect example of the need to show humility as we reach out to others.

Humility comes from complete understanding.

In verse 3, John gives us some insight into the origin of this unusual act by our Lord.

Christ knew exactly who he was and he knew His purpose.

He knew His power and He knew He was returning to God soon.

It is because of His complete understanding of these things that He was able to perform such a humble act.

We will show humility when we know to whom we belong and where we are going.

When we fully understand God's word and truly trust our eternal future to God, we are able to show humility in the interest of seeing others experience God's grace as well.

What is humility? - Humility is an attitude of the heart.

Illus: Ronald Regan washing the floor so nurse wouldn't get in trouble.

"Humility doesn't mean you think less of yourself, it means you think of yourself less."

Humility is putting the well being of others above our own pride and deserved recognition.

It takes humility to get on your knees and accept Christ as your savior. 1Peter 5:5

It takes humility to serve which is the next principal we gain from this amazing act.

2. **Mirror His Service**

Humility is an attitude of the heart. Service is the outward expression of humility.

We are commanded to follow Christ's example of service.

If we serve, we will be blessed.

In verses 13-17, Christ brings this concept of service to a commandment and promises blessings if we obey.

Christ brings this point home when he says if He the master can serve, who are we not to serve.

Christianity is more than a religion. It is more than a belief. It is more than a philosophy.

Christianity is a life. Being a Christian is about being a person fully associated with Christ in every aspect of life.

More than you are an Alabamian. More than you are a student, farmer, teacher or care giver.

More than you are a father or mother. More than you are a white man or a white woman. You and I are to be Christians!

We are to be sanctified children of God. We are set aside for His service and purposes.

We are to serve Christ by serving others and we are to do it in every aspect of our life.

Many Christians never experience the blessing of God because they never grasp this concept.

Too many Christians show up on the special Sundays or the days when they have nothing better to do and wonder why God isn't working in their lives.

Too many Christians never take positions of service and never get their hands into serving God and wonder why their isn't more to the relationship with God.

Too many Christians never crack their Bible and never go to their knees except in their desperate hours of need.

Illus: Lady purchase shoes for boy, must be God's wife.

When is the last time you prayed to God to give you a place to serve Him?

3. **Experience His Love**

I love this account so much because I relate to Peter. I can see myself being just as quick as Peter to refuse the idea of Jesus washing my feet.

With all of the things Peter had seen Christ do, he was not about to allow Him to stoop to this lowly act for him.

In verse 8, the statement is emphatic; "you shall never wash my feet."

Then, Jesus explains that if He does not wash him, he will have no part of Christ.

I don't think Peter fully understood what Christ meant but he had an idea where He was going with this.

Peter realized that Christ was not speaking about washing feet but about washing his life and cleansing his sins.

Peter knew enough to know that Christ was using something very simple to convey a divine truth and he responded in typical Peter style.

In essence he said; "then wash me all over." "Wash not just my feet but my hands and my head as well."

So, what was Christ demonstrating? What was the ultimate point of this great act of humility?

John answers this question back in verse 1. ¹“Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.”

Christ showed the full extent of His love in this amazing act of humility and service.

Christ was preparing them for what would be His ultimate act of love to be displayed at the cross..

➤ **Conclusion**

Jesus Christ loves you so much, He prayed for you.

He loves you so much, He promised you eternal life.

Illus: Stick your feet out.

He loves you so much he would wash your feet right now if that would touch your heart and cause you to reach out to Him and receive His gift.

He loves you so much that he died on the cross for you to have salvation and eternal life.

➤ **Invitation**

Will you:

Observe His Humility?

Mirror His Service?

Experience His Love?

Christ says to you the same thing he said to Peter, “**Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.**”

May your answer be; “then wash me all over!”

Wash Me All Over

John 13:3-9

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" John 13:9 NIV

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1. Humility comes out of strength not weakness.
2. Humility comes from complete understanding.
3. Humility is an attitude of the heart.

II. Mirror His Service

1. Service is the outward expression of humility.
2. We are commanded to follow Christ's example of service.
3. If we serve, we will be blessed.

III. Experience His Love

1. Christ showed the full extent of His love.
2. His ultimate act of love was displayed at the cross.