

Following Jesus
Washing Feet
John 13:1-17

I. Message

a. **Demonstration: Jesus washed the disciples' feet**

i. "4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 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."

ii. Foot washing in ancient times

1. Sandals didn't do a whole lot to protect feet from dust and mud
2. Feet were perpetually dirty before walkways were paved
3. Often there would be a low-on-the-totem-pole servant there to do the job
 - a. No skill required
 - b. Just an attitude of humble service

iii. In this case, the disciples are in the house with Jesus

1. They have arrived by there is no servant there to do the dirty work
2. They sit down to a meal that is going to last several hours
3. And they would be reclining around a low table
4. A lot of heads were close to a lot of feet!
5. Foot-washing for some guests would be a necessity, even among friends
 - a. Here are these selfish, self-absorbed men
 - b. Sitting with the King of glory with filthy feet
 - c. Nobody is thinking about serving the others
 - d. Except the Master
 - i. The LAST one who should be serving
 - ii. Humbles Himself

iv. **Intentionality**

1. He stood up
2. Took a towel
3. Wrapped it around Himself

v. **Humility**

1. He would have to kneel before them
 - a. Imagine room suddenly going quiet
 - b. They are ashamed
 - c. They are embarrassed for Jesus
 - d. What is He doing!?

2. These guys didn't deserve this!
3. But that's the whole point
 - a. Maybe Jesus could kneel and wash the clean feet of royalty
 - b. MAYBE
 - c. But to wash the dirty feet of proud and sinful fishermen?!?
4. They wouldn't do this for Him, let alone each other!
 - a. And here He was, the greatest among men, humbling himself
 - b. What short memories they had!
 - c. Earlier in the week Jesus had taught them that the greatest among them must be their servant
 - d. They forgot, like we do
 - e. So, He shows them what it looks like
 - f. He intentionally, and humbly sacrifices

vi. Sacrifice

1. Dirt on himself
2. Like Jesus on a Sunday morning at FBCW shoveling the walks

b. Disbelief: Peter thought He knew better than Jesus

- i. "6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?"
- ii. This blew the minds of the disciples
 1. Peter – "This cannot be happening Lord!"
 2. What are you doing?
 - a. He must have been ashamed
 - b. Shocked, Mortified
 - i. He had confessed Him as the source of truth
 - ii. As Christ, son of the living God
 - iii. And this God-man was kneeling before him!
 - iv. Declaring *him* clean!
 - v. What a privilege for Peter...And it horrified him
- iii. Why would you do this, Lord?

c. Doctrine: Jesus had some lessons for His disciples

- i. #1 – I am your Master and Lord
 1. "12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am."
 2. Jesus: "Do you understand the significance, here?"
 - a. I am your Master, your Rabbi, teacher
 - b. I am your Lord, owner

- c. This activity (washing feet) is closer to you than to me
 - d. **Deuteronomy 30:11-14**
 - i. It's not too hard to understand
 - ii. It's not too far off for you
 - iii. So, do it!
 - e. If your Master and Lord can do it, so can you...
- ii. #2 – You should wash each other's feet as I have done for you
1. **14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."**
 2. What was Jesus saying?
 3. **Love like this!**
 - a. Not just washing feet
 - i. This is symbolic for all kinds of acts of selfless love
 - ii. This is an example
 - iii. This is how you display agape love for the world
 - b. **John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."**
 - i. By what? By love!
 - ii. Christianity on display
- iii. #3 – Happiness is found in doing what you know Jesus commands
1. **"16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If (since) ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."**
 2. Want to be blessed?
 3. Love like Jesus
 - a. Humbly
 - b. Sacrificially
 - c. **1 Peter 5:5 "...be clothed with humility."**
 4. Why?
 - a. The world will tell you that happiness is in pride
 - b. But Jesus will tell you: true happiness is in self-denial
 - c. Happiness is in not found in getting things your way
 - d. Jesus says, happiness is in doing things MY way – with love
 - e. A couple of bonus benefits too:
 - i. You will know you are saved! – **1 John 3:18-19**
 - ii. The world will know you are saved – **John 13:35**