

## Wash One Another's Feet

*"It was just about the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus replied, 'you do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'No' said Peter, 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' 'Then Lord' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you' For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean. When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' He asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher', and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:1-17)*

Washing of the feet it was there from the ancient times; upon the coming of the guest to the house they honor him by washing his feet. This what happened when the Lord visited Abraham; he offered Him water to wash His feet, as we can read what Abraham had said to the Lord, *"Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree."* (Genesis 18: 4)

Washing of the feet was also a symbol of holiness as we can read what God ordered Moses to do to the priests, *"They shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generation to come."* (Exodus 30: 21)

But in the New Testament we find the Lord Jesus Christ Himself washed the feet of His disciples. Knowing the time for Him had come to suffer for our sins, our Lord and Saviour Jesus washed the feet of His disciples before His crucifixion and dead on the cross to give us a great teaching of profound value.

Washing one another's feet it has a deep meaning and it is not a mere symbolic thing. Jesus had a purpose in doing it and He want us to keep doing it for certain spiritual reasons as He commanded us, *"Now that I, your LORD and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."* (John 13:14)

Among the disciples was Simon Peter who was not willing that the Lord would wash his feet as he said, *"You shall never wash my feet."* But Jesus answered him, *"Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."* *"Then Lord" Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"* For Peter to accept and agree with what Jesus said and to do it, it means to be part of Him. To accept and follow what Jesus did it means to carry His same mind and thoughts, and having His same heart and love.

*What are the spiritual meanings of washing the feet and why the Lord commanded us to do it.*

**1) To show the full extend of love:** Jesus was ready to give His life for His own. The same should be for us; as we wash one another's feet we ought to be ready to offer that sacrificial love for one another: *"Greater love has no-one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends."* (John 15:13)

**2) It reflects our obedience to Christ example:** *"Now that I, your LORD and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."* (John 13:14) We need to obey Christ in this direction not only in doing this action of washing one another's feet but also to apply its meaning in our lives; to accept, to love, to serve, and to build one another.

**3) It enable the spirit of humility to grow:** It is very difficult to be prideful and haughty when you are involved in one of the most mean of task. Washing the feet of another person not easy to be accepted; the person who do that need to be humble; once he involve in such an act he ought to humble himself before God. The word of God it teaches us the following, *"Therefore, As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* (Colossians 3:12) To be a true people of God Humility should be there. God opposes the proud but He gives grace to the humble. God want us to be humble because good deeds could only be done if we carry humility in our lives.

**My dear and beloved:** As the Lord said, *'No servant is greater than His Master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.'* The step that Jesus walked we need to follow, *"Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did."* (1John 2:6) As we agree to pray.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word; humble me Lord and cleanse me from my pride and clothe me with humility and help me to follow your steps and walk in your ways. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*