

(1) Now, before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of the world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

(6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not everyone of you." For He knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

(12) When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

(18) "I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me."

Think on these things:

- 1) For how long will Jesus love us (v.1)?

This verse says Jesus loves His followers "to the end."

- 2) As Jesus gave instructions for the Lord's Supper sacrament observed by many churches, here He says to follow His example in washing the feet of others (v.15). Few churches do this.... Have you ever participated in a foot washing ceremony? How did/would you feel about it?

Personal answer. The author has done this, and it can be a little uncomfortable.

NOTE: Foot washing was a common ancient custom in the Middle East as host homes received travelers. It is still observed today to a lesser extent, predominantly in desert cultures.

- 3) Reading verses 4-5 and 12-17, along with Matthew 20:25-28, what do you think is the primary purpose in Jesus washing His disciples' feet? Look now at 1 Corinthians 12:24b-25. What does Paul point to as service in the Body of Christ?

Primary purpose? **The primary purpose was to convey that in Christ's Kingdom, humility is the key to servant leadership. Jesus, Himself, set the example. It's not about "position"....**

Teaching about life in Christ's Body of believers? **Faith and belonging to Christ's Body means showing care and using spiritual gifts in humble service to one another in the Church.**

- 4) Peter has a "go big or go home" type of personality. In his brief disagreement with Jesus (vs. 6-9), why do you think he asked that his head and hands be washed also?

It appears that his reasoning was, 'if washing my feet is good, then washing even more of me is much better!'

- 5) Jesus told Peter he would understand things later. It is later now...! This is a challenging teaching from Jesus. When Jesus talks about being 'entirely clean,' and then only needing our feet washed occasionally, how do you understand this? What exactly are we talking about? Consider the info found in 1 John 1:1-10. Also, based on 1 John, what do we lose when sin dirties 'our feet'?

Understanding of washing feet? **Being 'entirely clean' is accomplished by Jesus at the moment of a believer's saving faith. However, we all know that believers continue to fail God and sin again and again. That's where 1 John comes in; when we yield and fall into sin, we are told to confess our sins to God so that we may be forgiven, cleansed, and restored.**

Unclean feet cost us...? **'Unclean feet' is essentially a reference to sin's presence in the life of a believer. According to 1 John, sin not repented of 'breaks' our fellowship with God. Thus, sins for which we haven't repented negatively impact our intimacy with the Father as God's child.**

- 6) Jesus said not all of His disciples were 'clean.' Who was unclean, and why? Do you understand the Middle Eastern meaning of "he lifted up his heel against me"? (Hint: When President George H.W. Bush held a press conference in Baghdad after the capture of Saddam Hussein, something unexpected happened that illustrates this saying.)

Who was not clean? Why? (v.2) **Judas was unclean; Satan had 'put into his heart' to betray Jesus, and he was committed to doing this.**

'Lifting up one's heel' means? **"Lifting up" one's heel is an act of contempt in the Middle East. It conveys, "I don't respect you" or "I despise you." The incident with Pres. Bush refers to a news conference where one Iraqi newsman removed his shoe and through it at the president as he was fielding questions from the crowd. The newsman was immediately escorted out.**

- 7) In Hebrew instruction, the use of "Truly, truly..." (Verily, verily...) means 'pay close attention; this is especially important for you to grasp.' It occurs twice in today's lesson (vs. 16, 20). What two teachings did Jesus emphasize?

v.16 – **Students are not greater than their masters (teachers).**

v.20 – **To 'receive' Jesus into our presence is accomplished by receiving those whom Jesus sends to us. When we receive these (pastors, teachers, evangelists), we are also blessed to receive the Father, who sent Jesus to us.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: