

The Final Words of Jesus
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Hazen Stevens
Session 2: Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

I. Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet: John 13:5-20

A. Joh 13:5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Joh 13:6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Joh 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

1. Jesus is at this point clearly drawing a comparison between the act of loving humility in which he washes filth from the disciples feet, and the act of loving humility by which he will wash filth from our souls by his blood. I believe He is saying, "after you see my humility through death on the cross, you will understand the humility of my sacrifice in giving my life."
2. What did they not understand about Jesus nature as the Messianic deliverer? These old testament verses reveal what they would have believed, had they been convinced he was Messiah.
 - a) Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.
 - b) Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."Mic 5:3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. Mic 5:4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; Mic 5:5 And this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men.
 - c) Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
3. Jesus had plainly revealed to them that He was the Messianic deliverer, the Christ. We have to understand this was not Jesus' last name, but a formal title with rich prophetic promise for the people of Israel yearning for a King to deliver them from the hand of their oppressors. This king would usher in the Glory and dominion of Israel that had been eternally pledged. They were convinced that Jesus was this King, but could not understand why He would wash feet much less die on a cross.

4. Imagine it would have been like Jesus telling them that He was Superman, and they are constantly waiting for Him to change from Clark Kent.

a) [Mat 16:15](#) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [Mat 16:16](#) Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [Mat 16:17](#) Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." [Mat 16:18](#) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. [Mat 16:19](#) And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." [Mat 16:20](#) Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

B. **Joh 13:8** Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." **Joh 13:9** Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!"

1. Impetuous Peter resolves to not let Jesus wash his feet, perhaps he is offended at Rabbi washing feet or he considers it some kind of test. It should be revealing to us culturally at what a lowly despised task washing feet was, that Peter was so offended that Jesus would do it.

2. You have to love Peter's gusto! From the beginning He was radical, forsaking all to follow Jesus. He swears Jesus will never wash His feet, but at the Lord's rebuke he changes his tune. We see a glimpse of Peter's personality in this response, much like when he walked on the water to Jesus. He goes from fearing Jesus is a ghost, to walking out toward him on the water. Later after Jesus' death and resurrection, when He hears Jesus is on the shore, he leaps into the sea to swim to Him. This is Peter.

a) **Luk 5:5** But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." **Luk 5:6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. **Luk 5:7** So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **Luk 5:8** When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" **Luk 5:9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; **Luk 5:10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." **Luk 5:11** So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

b) **Mat 14:26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. **Mat 14:27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." **Mat 14:28** And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." **Mat 14:29** So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. **Mat 14:30** But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

- c) **Joh 21:7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. **Joh 21:8** But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.
- C. **Joh 13:10** Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." **Joh 13:11** For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."
1. Jesus is obviously referring to spiritual cleansing that comes through faith, he washed their feet as a symbolic act of purifying them spiritually. In that way the washing of feet mirrors the act of baptism. Jesus is saying that in washing their feet, he has made them spiritually fit to be his disciples. In like manner we must be baptized into Him, but also daily submit to receive the washing that comes through confession and repentance. In the humility of confession and repentance we let Jesus wash us anew. Jesus is paralleling three things in this passage, that baptism is a bath that makes you clean, confession is like the washing of the feet renewing that cleansing, and both point to the application of His blood that He was about to shed to our sins.
 - a) **Tit 3:4** But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **Tit 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, **Tit 3:6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **Tit 3:7** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - b) **1Pe 3:21** There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **1Pe 3:22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
 - c) **Heb 9:13** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, **Heb 9:14** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- D. **Joh 13:12** So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? **Joh 13:13** You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. **Joh 13:14** If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet. Joh 13:15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. **Joh 13:16** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. **Joh 13:17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
1. We see this command described multiple times in the Gospels, the book of Acts, and the Epistles.

- a) **Matthew 20:28** Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- b) **Matthew 20:26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,
- c) **Mark 10:42-45** And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- d) **Mark 9:35** And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”
- e) **Luke 22:26** But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.
- f) **1 Peter 5:3** Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
- g) **Acts 20:35** In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
- h) **Hebrews 13:7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith
- i) **Philippians 2:3-8** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ...
- j) **Acts 20:28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- k) **Galatians 6:9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- l) **1 Timothy 3:1-16** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
- m) **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- n) **Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
 - o) **1 Peter 5:1-14** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ...
- E. **Joh 13:18** "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'HE WHO EATS BREAD WITH ME HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.' **Joh 13:19** Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, **you may believe that I am He.** **Joh 13:20** Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."
- 1. In this passage Jesus identifies Himself as fulfilling a prophecy in Psalm 41, if Jesus knew verse 9 was a true word concerning He and Judas, then He also was remembering on the night of His betrayal and the beginning of His suffering the promise in the rest of the passage.
 - a) **Psa 41:9** Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up *his* heel against me. **Psa 41:10** But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, That I may repay them. **Psa 41:11** **By this I know that You are well pleased with me, Because my enemy does not triumph over me.** **Psa 41:12** **As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And set me before Your face forever.** **Psa 41:13** Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.