



Foot Washing
26th in the “Life in his Name” Series
John 13:1-20, p. 900
March 24, 2019
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us about the humiliating service of Christ and commands us to serve likewise.

The Text: John 13:1-20

1) Because of his great love for us, Christ our God and King serves his people in humiliation (vv. 1-5).

a) *Form of hospitality*

b) *Act of preparation*

2) Faith in Christ means accepting Jesus' humiliating service on our behalf (vv. 6-11).

3) After receiving the service of Christ, Christians are commanded to serve others likewise (vv. 12-20).

How do Christians obey Jesus' foot washing command?

a) *Ceremony to perform? – No!*

b) *Truth to believe? – Yes!*

c) *Behavior to practice? – Yes!*

Response

Receive the gracious service of the King and *Respond* by serving others like a servant (a slave of Christ)!

Sunday Text Questions for John 13:1-20

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- 1) Starter Question: How have you been served by someone in such a personal and humbling way that it was hard or embarrassing to receive it?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does v. 1 give us insight into Jesus' mission from the Father and his amazing love for the disciples?
- 4) What does v. 2 suggest about Satan's role in the life of Judas and the ministry of Jesus, and how might Satan influence people in the world today (don't let your discussion about Satan get outside a biblically-framed understanding of his defeat and submission to Christ)?
- 5) How do vv. 4-5 describe in detail the humiliating act of foot washing performed by Jesus, and (pardon the force of the analogy) how does the modern-day equivalent of "wiping someone's backside" help you understand the humiliation of the service?
- 6) Why did Peter not want Jesus to wash his feet, why was Peter wrong, and how did Jesus correct Peter's misunderstanding (vv. 6-11)?
- 7) What reasoning does Jesus use when he commands his disciples (and us) in vv. 14-15 to follow his example and wash the feet of others?
- 8) Are vv. 14-15 commanding a foot washing *ceremony* or a *lifestyle* that reflects the humble service of foot washing performed by Jesus, and how would you defend your interpretation?
- 9) Assuming foot washing is a lifestyle of service and not a ceremony (as the author of these questions does!), what are ways we should "wash one another's feet" in our cultural context?
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (perspective), and/or *love* (practice)?

Further study this week: James 4 on humility (Mon); Micah 6 on justice and humility (Tues); Proverbs 3 on humility and trust (Wed); Romans 12 on being offering living sacrifices (Thurs); Matthew 23:1-11 on the greatest are the servants (Fri).