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Biblical Foot washing
John 13:2-11

INTRO: With verse two of John thirteen, we continue our look at our Lord's intimate instruction of His little flock, His disciples, the early church.

Jesus knew that, "His hour was come that he would depart out of this world unto the Father" (vs 1b). He also knew that His disciples would be without Him; that they needed time alone with the Master; and that they need special training. These disciples were facing a time of heartache as well as a time of great responsibility, the responsibility of getting the Gospel out to the world.

To be successful in doing the word of God, these disciples would have to learn to be humble servants. Jesus teaches a lesson in humility by washing the disciples' feet.

1. VSS 2-4, THE CONDESCENSION OF CHRIST

1. Vs 2, In verse one, we have the love of Jesus for His own. In verse two, we have the hatred of Satan for God the Son.
 1. Judas had made a deal with the Priests to betray Jesus (Mt 26:14-16).
 2. Not only had he made a deal with the Priests, he had been possessed by the Devil.
 3. The Passover supper was ended; the Lord's Supper was yet to instituted.
2. Vs 3, this verse shows the greatness of our Lord's loving condescension.
 1. "He who is one with the Father, who came from God, went back to God, who is God, and in whose hands are all things, stooped down to wash the disciples feet" (Gabelelein 247).
 2. Think of it! God the Son washing feet.
3. Vs 4, The action that Jesus undertakes here is to be carefully considered. He is teaching the disciples a lesson that they needed.
 1. Their feet were dirty, as was His, because of the journey from Bethany to Jerusalem.
 2. Normally, the host would have a servant wash the feet of the guests; but in the upper room, there was no servant.
 1. One of the disciples should have risen to do it+ None were willing!
 2. Instead of wanting to serve, they had been arguing over who was greatest (Lk 22:24).
 3. Think of it. There was the pitcher, the basin, and the towel. Yet, not one of the disciples made a move.
 4. Jesus waited. It seems for quite awhile. The disciples are seated. The elements are on the table. Still no one offers to do the duty of a servant. The pitcher, basin, and the towel stare at them. No one moves.

5. "He riseth from supper...." It is Jesus who moves; it is He who is servant.
 1. He "laid aside his garments...." His long, loose robes.
 - 1- He assumed a servant's dress+ that of an Oriental slave, wearing a loin cloth.
 - 2- We are here reminded of Christ's humility in coming to earth: "taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2:7).
 - 3- F. B. Meyer said: "He rose from His kingly throne, and laid aside His garments of royalty; and took the towel of humanity and wrapped it around Himself. After He poured out His precious blood and made possible the cleansing of His disciples" (Powell 275).
 2. "And took a towel and girded himself."
 - 1- This must have been a rebuke to the disciples.
 - 2- He was ready to do a servant's work. We live in a day when most want to be served. They do not want to be servants.

2. VSS 5-11, INSTRUCTIONS IN HUMILITY

1. Vs 5, Look carefully at the detail of this verse: the pouring of the water, the washing of the feet, the drying of the feet.
 1. This is a teaching act, an act of humility, an act of affection.
 2. The feet of the disciples are washed, not their whole bodies for their bodies were clean, but not their feet.
 3. The disciples had come to Christ as Savior except Judas. They were spiritually clean, but their spiritual feet got dirty, as do ours, by walking in the world.
 1. Our feet, spiritually, need cleansing; and the way to keep them clean is the Word of God.
 2. Note these scriptures on cleansing (Psa 119:9; Eph 5:25-26).
 3. The filth of the world is all around us, and we need cleaning.
2. Vs 6, As Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, there was silence. Silence because Jesus was doing for them what they should have done for Him. Silence because they were ashamed of this selfish action or lack of action.
 1. Then Jesus comes to Peter; and with him, there is a reaction.
 1. The thought of Jesus, the Master, washing his feet was intolerable.
 2. Could it be that Peter saw the Lord of glory (vs 3) washing his feet and in seeing this a deep sense of unworthiness swept over him?
 2. Friends, Jesus does so much for us. He left heaven's glory, came to earth, and died for sinners. This should humble us.
3. Vs 7, Jesus was bringing to His disciples comfort by His own humiliation.
 1. When Jesus would go to the Father, He would bring great comfort to His people. The washing of the disciples feet was but a sample.
 2. After His death, burial, resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it would all become clear.

4. Vs 8, Peter is saying here: “not now or ever will you wash my feet.”
 1. Peter was rather obstinate. We might sense a little pride and self-righteousness here.
 2. Friends, let’s not get so caught up in our pride that we refuse what the Lord Jesus offers to do for us.
 3. “Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”
 1. “If I wash thee not....” We cannot wash our own feet. The Lord must do it through His Word.
 2. “Part” has to do with fellowship. “....Thou hast no fellowship with me” (Note II Cor 6:15).
 - 1- Of Mary and Martha+ Mary had chosen the good part (Lk 10:42+ to sit at Jesus’ feet).
 - 2- This washing is specifically the cleansing from sin (1Jn 1:9).
 - 3- Again, our feet are dirty and need cleansing.
5. Vs 9, this is the Peter we know: compulsive, and going from one extreme to the other.
6. Vs 10, Jesus is talking here about the spiritual not the physical.
 1. Not only do believers not need to be washed all over, they cannot be washed all over again. Salvation is once and for all time.
 2. Jesus often illustrated spiritual truth:
 1. John 3:3,5-6 spiritual rebirth
 2. John 4:13-14 spiritual water
 3. John 6:51 spiritual bread
 3. There was one disciple that needed complete cleansing+Judas.
7. Vs 11, This is a direct reference to Judas Iscariot.
 1. Jesus knows those that are His and those who are not.
 2. “He that is not with me is against me...” (Mt 12:30).

CONCLUSION: Jesus gives us lessons in humility and spirituality.