

STANLEY FAITH EV FREE

Pastor Michael Thompson Sunday September 17th, 2017

John Series # 67

Jesus Washing Feet

John 13:1-11 Jesus Washing Feet

REVIEW

So, we are back in our text in the book of John. We have been in various topical series during the summer and just finished up with a 4 week series called Heaven and Hell. We are entering a powerful section of the book on John in which Jesus is spending special time with His disciples getting them ready for when He leaves. He is getting them prepared to start this worldwide movement called the church.

READ THE TEXT

John 13:1-11 (NIV)

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 13:1-11 (NIV)

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival.

JUST BEFORE PASSOVER FESTIVAL

On the Passover festival believing Jews from all over the world would be coming to Jerusalem for the Passover. The Passover was a celebration that began in order to remember the way in which God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. God set the nation of Israel free from slavery after 400 years of captivity through Moses.

There were elements of the Passover celebration such as the sacrifice of a lamb as a guilt offering that pointed forward to the death of Jesus Christ to die for the guilt of sinners.

Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

JESUS KNEW

Question: How did Jesus know the hour had come for him to leave? Sure, he was picking up a negative vibe from the Pharisees who wanted to kill him. I've picked up that vibe a few times before but that doesn't mean it's going to happen. So how did Jesus know for sure it was His time?

I want us to remember that the Christian life is not like the worldly way of thinking. **Jesus was not a helpless victim led away by soldiers who stumbled upon Him. He was not hiding and cowering in fear. He came on purpose of live a perfect life as the Son of God and then die for our sins as the Lamb of God.** Our attitude should not be pity but gratitude when we think of the cross. He was in touch with the Father and lived His life to God.

So, Jesus when he knew did not run for cover or purchase a plot of land in Utah and store up survival supplies.

THE HOUR HAD COME TO LEAVE THIS WORLD AND GO TO THE FATHER

It was Passover. Jesus was to become the Passover Lamb of God. This was His time to die in the place of those who would trust His death as payment for your sin. Only He and His Heavenly Father understood what

difficulties lie ahead. But now Jesus must be sure that His disciples are ready for His departure.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

LOVED HIS OWN HE LOVED THEM TO THE END

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

THE DEVIL HAD PROMPTED JUDAS

The devil uses what is already there. **Primarily the battle is for the mind. And the enemy uses our old tapes or ways in which we have repeated sin patterns programed in our mind.** He tempts us to drive down the ruts of that old road. And we usually take ourselves out. The battle is for the mind. And the things we set our mind and heart on matter. What we cherish and focus on is huge.

Judas focused on money and building his personal wealth. Many have speculated that he wanted to be part of a powerful religion or movement. I'm guessing Judas had in mind a well-armed prosperity gospel movement with lots of money. With Judas and his constant emphasis on money and the lust for money, it did not take much for Satan to put a picture of a bag of money in Judas' mind to switch him into a mode where he was ready to act on his sinful desires.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so

The word "so" tells us that we're about to get the reaction of Jesus to His being made aware that His time had come.

So now we will see the reaction.

(Posture = clothed humbly, action oriented, other oriented, servant leadership modeling)

(vs 4 cont) he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

⁵ 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.

TOOK OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHING

This taking off his outer clothing is the way that Jesus is getting ready to take physical action. There is also a symbolic action seen. Jesus set

aside the outer clothing of His glory as the Son of God and instead came in humility born of a virgin humbling himself by being born into an unglorified human body.

So He takes off his outer clothing which contains symbolism of taking off the clothing of heavenly glory.

HE PUTS ON THE CLOTHING OF A (Shoe shine / Nurse Whose Body Washing)

What kind of clothing do you wear when you know you are going to get dirty? Jeans and a T Shirt? Sweat and a T Shirt? Basically Jesus changed into sweats and a T shirt. And he began to wash their feet.

****ILLUSTRATION: PRESIDENT GOES TO HOUSTON**

Recently you have seen the President go to Houston to encourage survivors of the Hurricane. It really gives heart to the people when the highest leader gets right into the mix of things with the people.

So, you see President Trump taking selfies with various people and photo ops of him carrying boxes to a truck. And I think that is great. I don't care who you voted for applause is due when a leader does the right thing gives an honest effort to encourage those who suffer.

But all of our Presidents are politicians and none of them are Jesus. A good illustration of Jesus washing feet would be if President Trump went into the medical tent and washed the mud off the faces and arms and limbs of people who were pulled to safety.

THE CUSTOM

In the Middle East in places in which sandals were worn guest would come. They would be greeted with a kiss. Water would be provided. A servant would be brought in to kneel and wash the feet of the guests drying them off so guest could walk barefoot through the house.

Jesus owns the house, welcomes the guests and humbles himself to wash the feet of those who go to the nations in His name. They must go like in the attitude of a servant.

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."

1 Corinthians 9:19

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

All words and no action is not the way for believers. It is not the way to show people what Jesus is like.

(John 13 Continued)

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, ...

HE CAME TO SIMON PETER

None of the other Apostles are mentioned by name. So, there is something unusual or special about the way Peter and Jesus interacted.

... (Simon Peter) said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Have you ever tried to give a person a gift or help them with something only to have them reject your gift or act of service? Sometimes people are so self-sufficient and prideful that they need no one and they are the one who helps others they are unable to receive. They do not feel worthy to just receive without working for it or deserving it. To have a gift or act of service that was not earned or deserved is too much. And here is the Lord of glory. Jesus the Son of God bowing at the feet of Peter and it is too much to take in. Peter refuses at first. And I think we can understand his hesitancy and feelings of unworthiness.

⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸ “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Jesus is not saying that physically washing the feet of Peter will save his soul. He is speaking symbolically. Jesus is saying that He is going to humble Himself and take off His glory and serve humanity by dying on the cross. And this act of service will wash our sins. This is what Jesus is hinting at with the washing of feet. He is taking the stink of our sin and bowing down to wash it off with His own work. But Peter gets the wrong idea and misses the symbolic talk. He gets the idea that unless Jesus slops some water on him he can't be with Jesus.

⁹ “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

You have to admire Peter's enthusiasm.

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

NOT EVERYONE IS CLEAN

Jesus is stating that there is someone in the room with an unclean heart. He knows Judas has bad motives and has been prompted by Satan to act on his stronghold. He will be betrayed. And yet Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples, even Judas.

SUMMARY / CHALLENGE

RENEWING OUR FOCUS

I want to take a few minutes to apply this message to where we are going as a church.

1. Strengthen Believers Locally (small groups, 2 or 3, sewing grp, projects shared)
2. Engage With Fellowship and Gift Use
3. Employ the Spirit's Power (pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance)
4. The Spirit will meet you consistently at your neighbor's feet. The "show" is for a refreshing break. It is not the primary life of a believer.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

Men's Ministry (Leader)

Benevolence actions (Leader)

Visitation needs 4 regular people all week

TAKING IT HOME

1. Am I looking for someone outside of me to do my Christian experience for me or am I coming full of The Spirit and changing my sphere of influence by the power of The Holy Spirit?
2. How is Jesus calling me specifically to wash feet in my sphere of influence? What is the first step that I should take?
3. What are strongholds in my life that I have not dealt with that Satan could prompt that could take me out of the fellowship or my family or my walk with God?