

Developing a “Footwashing Attitude”

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Introduction:

In our study of the Gospel of Mark this past Wednesday evening we noted that there was something missing in the Passover accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke that IS included in the Gospel of John. The footwashing.

Specific Purpose of this message:

Today we'll see that developing and maintaining a “Footwashing Attitude” is KEY to being a true Christian. It exemplifies the same attitude of Jesus. Both in his entire life and being, and just prior to his Passover sacrifice. It is also critical to us being truly happy.

Need:

Not only do we need to participate in the footwashing service at Passover, we need to develop the Footwashing Attitude year round to be a true follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus really was “all in”:

Luke 22:15 NLT - Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins.

Luke 22:16 NLT - For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

John's Passover footwashing account:

(Remember John was written much later than the other gospel accounts.)

John 13:1 NLT - Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

John 13:2 NLT - It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

John 13:3 NLT - Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

He knew he was going to receive all that he had before.. But he STILL showed the attitude of a servant!

King James Version	New Living Translation
<p>Philippians 2:1 KJV - If [there be] therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,</p> <p>Philippians 2:2 KJV - Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.</p> <p>Philippians 2:3 KJV - [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.</p> <p>Philippians 2:4 KJV - Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.</p> <p>Philippians 2:5 KJV - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:</p> <p>Philippians 2:6 KJV - Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:</p> <p>Philippians 2:7 KJV - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:</p> <p>Philippians 2:8 KJV - And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.</p>	<p>Philippians 2:1 NLT - Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?</p> <p>Philippians 2:2 NLT - Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.</p> <p>Philippians 2:3 NLT - Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.</p> <p>Philippians 2:4 NLT - Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.</p> <p>Philippians 2:5 NLT - You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.</p> <p>Philippians 2:6 NLT - Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.</p> <p>Philippians 2:7 NLT - Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,</p> <p>Philippians 2:8 NLT - he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.</p>

John 13:4 NLT - So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist,

John 13:5 NLT - and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

What Jesus was doing was usually done by the person themselves or slave or servant - not by the host.

John 13:6 NLT - When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Peter KNEW who Jesus was:

Matthew 16:13 NLT - When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Matthew 16:14 NLT - "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

Matthew 16:15 NLT - Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Matthew 16:16 NLT - **Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."**

Matthew 16:17 NLT - Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

John 13:7 NLT - Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

Peter didn't get it.

John 13:8 NLT - "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

John 13:9 NLT - Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Peter STILL didn't get it. (But his attitude was good!)

John 13:10 NLT - Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you."

John 13:11 NLT - For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

Can you imagine the dynamics of Jesus washing Judas' feet.. Both knowing what was going on and what Judas was going to do?

Proverbs 25:21 NLT - If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink.

Proverbs 25:22 NLT - You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.

Do you think Judas may have had second thoughts at this point?

The "rest of the story" of Judas:

Matthew 27:3 NLT - When Judas, who had betrayed him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, **he was filled with remorse**. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and the elders.

Matthew 27:4 NLT - "I have sinned," he declared, "**for I have betrayed an innocent man.**" "What do we care?" they retorted. "That's your problem."

Matthew 27:5 NLT - Then Judas threw the silver coins down in the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

Matthew 27:6 NLT - The leading priests picked up the coins. "It wouldn't be right to put this money in the Temple treasury," they said, "since it was payment for murder."

Matthew 27:7 NLT - After some discussion they finally decided to buy the potter's field, and they made it into a cemetery for foreigners.

Matthew 27:8 NLT - That is why the field is still called the Field of Blood.

Matthew 27:9 NLT - This **fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah** that says, "They took the thirty pieces of silver--the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel,

Matthew 27:10 NLT - and purchased the potter's field, as the LORD directed."

Romans 5:8 CSB - But God proves his own love for us in **that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Did we, like Judas, come to recognize that OUR sins killed/betrayed an innocent man?

Romans 5:9 CSB - How much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.

Romans 5:10 CSB - For if, **while we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Romans 5:11 CSB - And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

NOTE: So we see the death of Christ reconciles us to God, but we also need to be reconciled to our fellow spiritual brothers and sisters.

John 13:12 NLT - After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?"

John 13:13 NLT - You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.

John 13:14 NLT - And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you ought to wash each other's feet.**

John 13:15 NLT - **I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.**

WE NEED TO HAVE THE SAME LOVE FOR OTHERS AS GOD AND JESUS HAVE FOR US!

1 John 4:7 CSB - Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:8 CSB - The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:9 CSB - God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:10 CSB - Love consists in this: not that we loved God, **but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

1 John 4:11 CSB - Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, **we also must love one another.**

We must have this "footwashing attitude" everyday - not just at Passover.

John 13:16 NLT - I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.

John 13:17 NLT - Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

John 13:17 KJV - If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them.**

So the importance is on DOING what Jesus did. On following His example, both at Passover but also having the "Footwashing attitude" year round.

(And if you don't do what he says, you won't be happy!)

Ephesians 5:25 NLT - For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her

Ephesians 5:26 NLT - to make her holy and clean, **washed by the cleansing of God's word.**

Ephesians 5:26 KJV - That he might sanctify and **cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

Ephesians 5:27 NLT - He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

We need to PARTICIPATE in this washing.

John 15:1 KJV - I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

John 15:2 KJV - Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:3 KJV - Now **ye are clean through the word** which I have spoken unto you.

Hebrews 10:22 KJV - Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and **our bodies washed with pure water.**

Hebrews 4:9 NLT - So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God.

Hebrews 4:10 NLT - For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world.

Hebrews 4:11 NLT - So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.

Hebrews 4:12 NLT - For the **word of God is alive and powerful.** It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. **It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.**

Hebrews 4:13 NLT - Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Hebrews 4:14 NLT - So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.

Hebrews 4:15 NLT - This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:16 NLT - So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Listening AND Doing:

James 1:19 NLT - Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

James 1:20 NLT - Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

James 1:21 NLT - So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

James 1:22 NLT - **But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.** Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:23 NLT - For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

James 1:24 NLT - You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

James 1:25 NLT - But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and **if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.**

Bless = G3174 = μακάριος makários, mak-ar'-ee-os; a prolonged form of the poetical μάκαρ mákar (meaning the same); supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off:—blessed, happy(X -ier).

The KJV translates Strong's G3107 in the following manner: [blessed](#) (44x), [happy](#) (5x), [happier](#) (1x).

Same word as in John 13:17

John 13:17 KJV - If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them.**

Conclusion:

In John 13 the command Jesus was talking about DOING and being happy if you did do them, is having the attitude of service and love that we express both during the footwashing at Passover, and by having a “footwashing attitude” throughout the entire year.

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### **Additional Resources:**

The Meaning of Footwashing Sermon by Donald Ward

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/the-meaning-of-the-footwashing-ceremony-0>