



PASTOR'S

Perspective

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Christ is offering us an example of humility and servant hood.

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It seemed like an easy thing to do for Jesus. He did it with such great ease and seemingly without hesitation. Though it surprised and caught the disciples off guard Jesus proceeded anyway. During dinner the record says that Jesus got up from the table, took off His outer garment and spread a towel around His waste, filled a basin full of water and began to wash the disciple's feet. Yuk! right in the middle of dinner. Could this have waited at least until dinner was over? The stunned disciples don't know what to do or what to make of this strange occurrence. They were probably thinking, "now we have seen Jesus do some powerful things, even heal sick bodies and call a man back from the dead but washing our feet in the middle of dinner that takes the cake!"

As a part of who Jesus was and what power He stood, for John tells us that Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. But then John clarifies even more for us just what Jesus was all about. "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end!" There it is. It's the explanation for what Jesus was doing in this act of washing His disciples' feet. He was yet again displaying His love for them. He had led them in strange ways and to strange places. He had demonstrated the power of His Father at work in Him. He had taught them how to pray. He had given them power over sickness and disease and demons. He had rescued them from what appeared to be certain death while on a ship at sea one night. He had demonstrated to them how God could take little and make much. He had even given one of them, Peter, the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Now here He is washing their feet and what He is now teaching is what true servitude and love is all about.

Foot washing in that day was a symbol of humility reserved for servants. Remember they did not have Stacy Adams or Johnson and Murphy or Jimmy Choo or Nine West or Ferragamo or Easy Spirit or even Payless for that matter. They walked around in sandals and sandals did not cover the entire foot and thus road dust, animal waste, mud and everything else along the wayside of the road were all candidates vying for a home on the feet! So though the job of foot washing was reserved for servants it was not a pleasant job. Yet it brought

great comfort and relief to the beneficiary and also a sense of devotion and joy to the servant. So here Jesus is in the role of servant washing the disciples' feet. Imagine that, the Savior of the world, the soon to be offered up Messiah washing His disciples' feet. But that's not all. He gives them those timeless words which still ring true for us even today, "unless I wash your feet you have no share with me." Then after washing all of their feet He chides them even further. "So if I your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you."

Washing somebody's feet? No way! Christ is offering us an example of humility and servant hood. Don't get hung up on the foot washing part get caught up by the servitude part. After all we are each called to be each other's servant. Isn't there something about "being my brother's keeper?" The lesson here is this: In and through the acts of love and grace giving humility with and to each other we really learn what it means to serve Christ. Since He has set the example if we are to embody His presence in the world and imitate His love we must learn to act and live as He did. Washed anybody's feet lately?

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