

Stoop And Serve

April 2, 2017

Scripture Reading. John 13:3-11

1Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

5Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." 10Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

STOOP DOWN AND SERVE!

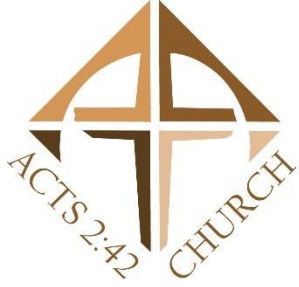
Introduction: Today I am going to "practice what I preach." Since we are talking about foot washing today, I am going to reenact the same act what Jesus did 2000 years ago.

(Start the foot washing process)

Ok. While some of you are washing, let me talk about this peculiar act.

John 13:3-5 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

Jesus knew who He was! Do you know who you are? Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands, He also knew that He had come from God and was going back to God! Do you know who you are? Our identity is not based on who we are in this world but who we are in Christ.



Stoop And Serve

April 2, 2017

One of the most important imagery in the Bible is about the slavery. It not only shows us the servant spirit but also the truth about his total belonging to his master. He lives according to the will and pleasure of his master. His identity is based upon who his master is! Unfortunately, many translations dilute this word slave by translating as servants! When people saw slaves in those days, they just saw them as property that belonged to some master. The slaves were baptized in their master's name. The slaves had absolutely no identity of their own. We should also be looked at as belonging to our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ! But we tend to live for our ambitions and desires. Not for Jesus!

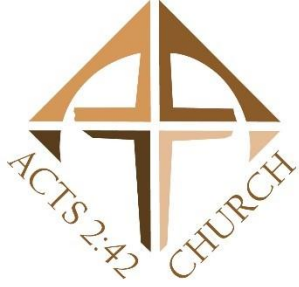
Jesus Himself washed all the disciples' feet! I should have washed everyone's feet. I delegated my job already! My apologies.

John 13:6-9. 6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

Peter was taken back by Jesus stooping down to him. He cringed with an uneasy feeling. Peter said, "Lord, you should not be washing my feet." Jesus replied, you may not understand what I do now, but you will know later. There are certain rituals we may not understand fully such as baptism and communion. But still, partake in it and try to understand. Both the rituals reinforce our identity. It challenges us to cleanse our hearts! Why is it essential to come to church, Bible studies, and prayer meetings? God speaks to us as a corporate body and breathes His purpose. We may not understand certain things in the Bible. That does not mean, we close the Bible and go our own way. We may not understand now what the Bible wants. But if we keep at it, obey the Word of God even though we do not understand fully, or we do not agree with it, we will do well.

But Peter was adamant. What Christ did for Him was too much for him. He kept saying you should never wash my feet. Jesus immediately said, if I do not wash you, you have no part in me. In other words, either follow me or hit the road Jack! God wants radical obedience to His Word, whether we understand it or not, whether we agree with it or not! If we do not abide in His Word, we are like branches that will wither away. (John chapter 15).

For some of you, life is becoming drier, and you are drying up spiritually. Examine yourself. There is a good chance, you are not even reading the Word and meditating on it. You are not probably taking any effort to abide in the Word. If you do not abide in the Word, you are in danger of losing your fellowship with Christ!



Stoop And Serve

April 2, 2017

Jesus Christ our Lord wants us to serve one another. We build our relationship through our serving. When we do not serve, our relationship suffers. No serving, no relationship. Children, parents, husbands, wives, examine yourself. Perhaps we are distant to our loved ones because we do not serve. Especially, children.

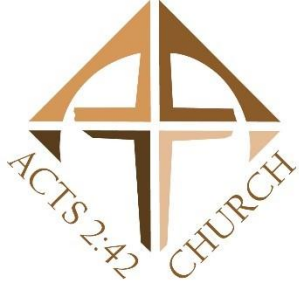
Now Peter was startled. He told Jesus to wash not only his feet, but his hands and his head also. Now Peter wanted to be totally obedient, and clean! Jesus told Peter, if you love me, feed my sheep. Jesus is still saying it. If you love me, stoop down and serve my people!

John 13:10,11. 10Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

Vs 10 is a very beautiful verse! It is very profound also! Here Jesus brings the Logic. If someone is thoroughly washed, and if he or she is walking around, only the feet need to be washed for such people! This goes spiritually also. When we repent of our sins, receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, and Lord, and if we had surrendered ourselves totally through baptism, we are indeed washed and clean. That does not mean that we live a perfect life every day. We often fall and dirty our spiritual feet. That is why we ought to come to the table every week to wash our worldly feet. We not only wash our feet as we come to the table, but we also identify ourselves with Christ to reaffirm who we are in Christ. Holy Communion should be an important part of our spiritual foot washing!

Peter was already clean because of Jesus' cleansing Word. But those people like Judas who did not heed the Words of life were not clean at all! Such people are dirty because they have their own agenda and egotistic desires, passions, and ambitions that are so worldly.

John 13: 12-17. 12So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16"Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master,



Stoop And Serve

April 2, 2017

nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17“If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus asked them, do you understand what I was trying to teach you through this foot washing? You call me master, teacher, Lord rightfully so. If I, your Lord stoops to wash all the slaves' feet, you ought to also wash each other's feet. Here if the Son of God stoops down to wash our feet, why can't we stoop down to serve our fellow brothers and sisters? A slave is not greater than his master, and if the slave is supposed to serve, why is he refusing to do so? The one who is sent is not greater than the one who sent him. Even though, Jesus was equal with God the Father in essence and substance, He voluntarily humbled Himself to obey Him. USA is number one in marketing products, because of their terrific customer service. Many businesses have applied this servant model and have become very successful. Humble yourself and stoop down to serve. If you walk around like a proud, haughty, stiff-necked person, people will start pushing you down.

Conclusion:

Know who you are! Slave daughters and sons of the most high God.

You are the servants of the most high God! You are the ambassadors of God!

Gal. 2:20. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me. The life I lead is through the faith of Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

You don't belong to yourself. You always belong to God!

Live for your master and others. Not for yourself!

Look down to the needs of the people and serve.

Don't look at their cars they drive, and their big houses, and their shiny careers. Just stoop down to serve others and bring them to Christ.

No serving, No relationship!

Pastor Daniel Israel