

2009 #15GOS OF JOHN – JESUS LAST WORDS AND ACTIONS

March 15 John 13:1-17 Washing Disciples feet

Today we study Jesus farewell message to his disciples.
 I have had to deliver three farewell messages in my ministry.
 It is not an easy thing to do.
 People become your family.
 Their tears are your tears,
 Their joys are your joys.
 But Jesus does it well because
 he knows his audiences heart and will.

Early in WWII, baseball broadcasters were forbidden to give information about
 weather conditions over the air, for fear it might aid enemy bombers. Dizzy Dean was
 one of the broadcasters. It was a rainy day in St. Louis and Dizzy Dean was trying to fill
 in a rain delay with an hour of aimless talk, of course, never mentioning why there was
 no action on the field. Finally he just ran out of words, and said, "If you folks don't know
 what's holding up this game just stick your heads out the window."

Today too many Christians are guilty of
 Sticking their heads in the sand
 Instead of out of the window

One of the greatest challenges of the church today
 Is to balance being relevant with our culture
 And yet preach the moral and Biblical guidelines
 Necessary for our day.
 Sometimes we don't do it well.
 And often our intentions are misunderstood.

I know a lot of people would like to keep the
 Church and the pastor out of politics and what
 Is going on in Washington and Pierre.
 They call for separation of church and state.
 But God never said that.
 The Bible doesn't repeat it,
 And the church must not allow it.
 Because we are to be light to our world
 Salt to the earth.
 Sharing the truth and light that will help pull peoples
 Heads out of the sand.
 And get them sticking them out the window.

Jesus moved to push open a bigger window for the disciples.
 Because he wanted them to take a giant step in growth and understanding
 Before he left them.

I. JESUS SHARED HIS LAST WORD

Jesus knew exactly what the political weather was in Jerusalem.
 He knew his disciples were still not getting it.

¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. John 13:1

Once Jesus determined his **time had come**,
Jesus moved to show his disciple the **full extent of his love**.

Just because your children don't get it sometimes,
Do we give up teaching them?
No!! We just kept on teaching until they get it.
Or else most of us today wouldn't be able to tie our shoes.
It is not just children,
It can be adults as well.

Charles Swindoll, in his book "The Grace Awakening," tells about one of his youth workers 40 years ago who was a creative, forward looking youth, in a Scandinavian church. who decided he would show the youth group a missionary film.

We're talking about a simple, safe, black-and-white, religious-oriented documentary movie. Well that film projector hadn't even cooled off

Before the deacons called him in and asked:

"Did you show the young people a film?" He responded, "Well, yes I did."

"We don't like that," they replied.

The youth worker was a bit confused and said: "Well, I remember that at the last missionary conference, our church showed slides--"

One of the church deacons put his hand interrupting him and said.....

"If it's still, fine. If it moves, sin!" You can show slides, but when they start movin', you're gettin' into sin.

Jesus saw the disciples were sitting still.
With their heads in the sand,
Jesus wanted to get them moving.
To get his message from their brain, to their hearts, and then to their hands.

It was one thing on the farm to know how to milk a cow.
It was another thing for my Dad to get us to do it.

As Christians we know we are the children of God,
God's spirit has set us free,
To do all the "good we can,"
To all the "people we can" In "all the ways that we can"
As "long as we can"
But it is another thing to get us doing it.

As their leader, their teacher, their Savior.
Jesus demonstrate very visibly what
He wants them to know spiritually.

II. JESUS DEMONSTRATED A SPIRITUAL TRUTH

The disciples must have been shocked when they saw their Master rise from Supper,
Lay aside His outer garment
Wrap a towel around His waist,
Take a basin of water,

And wash their feet.

(((4so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:4-5)))

Jewish servants did not wash their master's feet,
Gentile slaves might do it.
But it just wasn't done in that culture.

Jesus knew the disciples were in conflict.
Just minutes before they were disputing over
which of them was the greatest. Luke 22:24-30
They were sticking their heads into the sand of self interest.

Jesus wanted to get their heads sticking out the window
to see the effect they could have as light and salt in the world.
I believe that is exactly what the church and America needs.
We are in a great jeopardy of burying ourselves in ourselves
And our selfish interest.

In the book *Habits of the Heart*, by Robert Bellah, He talks about radical individualism which is committed only to the self. He says our culture is moving away from concerns about family, community and what is good for society as a whole, to a culture that is concern only about what is good for us personally as individuals.

Sheila Larson is a young nurse who has received a good deal of therapy and describes her faith with a new religion called 'Sheilaism.' She says: "I believe in God, I am not a religious fanatic, but I don't go to church. My only tenants beyond belief are to love myself and be gentle with myself, it is Sheilaism. Just my own little voice."
That is fast becoming the dominant religion of America: the worship of self.

If you don't think we are in a society of pampered affluence
Try to buy your adult child or friend a gift.
We are at a loss to know what to get for special occasion
because they already have gotten everything for themselves.

Jesus was saying there is a gift that works every time.
That can't be lost nor will it ever be forgotten.
This ideal gift is YOURSELF.

John Wesley saw the world as his parish.
That we are not just responsible for ourselves,
But for the family, the community, the nation, and its government.
The way we live our lives should demonstrate this.
By Doing no harm, Doing good, and Loving God.
To sit back and do nothing is unchristian.
Not only does the community need us,
We need a community around us.

Years ago, when speaker of the house Sam Rayburn found out he had terminal cancer, he shocked everyone when he announced that he was going back to his small town in Bonham, Texas for treatment. Everyone said to him: They have got the finest facilities in

Washington, D. C., why go back to that little town? He said: "Because in Bohman, Texas, they know if you're sick and they care when you die. We need community.

So in an act of genius, Jesus got up wrapped a towel around himself
 Rebuked the disciples selfishness and pride.
 Jesus washed their feet.

The Gospel of John reveals the humility of our Lord even while magnifying his deity.
 Jesus served his disciples to teach them humility and self denial.

III. JESUS CLARIFIED HIS MESSAGE.

Peter watching the Lord wash his friends feet,
 Became more and more disturbed.
 He could not understand what He was doing.

REJECTS JESUS OFFER

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." John 13:5-7

Peter impulsiveness speaks out of ignorance

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." John 13:8

How often before had Jesus corrected Peter.

Peter opposed Jesus going to the cross Matthew 16:21-23

Peter tried to maneuver the mount of transfiguration experience. Matt 17:1-8

Peter tried to express the faith of all the disciples in upper room John 6:66-71

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:8b

Jesus used the word wash,

Which means to wash a part of the body.

Peter misunderstood:

²"Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus was teaching there are two kinds of washing.

To show us two kinds of faith.

First is the act of saving faith,

the washing of regeneration in the shed blood of Christ

The word washed in John 13:10 is Louo And means to bathe all over.

When we accept Christ's sacrifice for our sin,

The sin of Adam in our lives is remembered no more. Hebrews `10:17

We are "Bathed all over"

We are washed in the Blood of the Lamb, sanctified, justified

The scripture says.

But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. I cor. 6:11

Paul wrote to Titus

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

Judas never had his heart clean.

That's why he could not take communion.

That's why Jesus dismissed him before communion.

¹⁰Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." John 13:10

We can to church and have our feet washed,
But if our heart is not clean we are still unclean.

¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. John 13:10-11

The **second** act is living faith
As the believer walks in the world
We so easily become defiled.

I remember custom combining for our neighbor.
It was my job to run the combine.
We didn't have air-conditioned cab in those days.
We didn't even have a cab on the tractor.
All we hoped to have was a pair of goggles, and a kerchief
to tie around our mouth so we didn't eat dirt and chaff all day.
At noon when we came into the house to eat
We looked like a raccoon
We were a mess.
We washed our faces and hands,
And we left the sink a mess.
We didn't need a bath to sit at the table,
But we did need our face and hands washed.

Living faith or cleansing faith is about Gods forgiveness
for the acts of Omission and commission. Things we do in the flesh.
I John 1: Say these are taken care of thru confession of sins.

²If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

Unrighteousness means literally "not living right".

But then Jesus takes this a step further.

1. Not only do we need to bath,
 2. Not only do we need to wash daily,
 3. **We need to help others become clean.**
- To help them bath their soul and wash their feet.
To get their heads out of the sand and into the sunlight.

How can you know when you have been completely healed.

The obvious answer is when the pain is gone.
When the nausea and fever is gone,
When the bone is mended. When the ligament is healed.

But the Gospel gives a better answer.
When Jesus came to the home of Peter's mother-in-law.
He saw she was sick with the fever.
Jesus touched her.
How do we know she was healed??
It says the "The fever left her, she got up, and she began to serve them."

That is when we know we are truly a Christian and we have been healed.
 When we are ready to serve others in their need
 When were ready to lift others in their suffering,
 Then we have been set free from self to service.

The lord of the universe who created the feet,
 Now washed them.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. Then he explained it

¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

Jesus was way ahead of his time.

We have a new word in advertising called Tryvertising.
 Tryvertising is a new breed of product placement,
 integrating goods and services into daily life in a relevant way,

When you go to the local supermarket, they offer free samples of food stuff
 So we can make up our minds not based on their message,
 But based on our taste experience.
 That is Tryvertising---

Your emails and the internet is full of free offers, free stuff,
 So our teenage can try it, And then buy it.
 iTunes and Amazon's Search Inside feature "preview book's before you buy.

That is exactly what Jesus was doing with the disciples.
 He showed them by experience,
 What humility in foot washing could do
 To open up and humble even the hardest heart.

¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:15-17

Look around you this week, Are there feet to be washed.
 Lives to be served. Hurt to be healed,
 Words to be shared. Lives to be touched.

What new things can we do in our church foyers, gymnasiums, hallways, waiting rooms,
 class rooms, workplace and homes,
 to give people a sample,
 an experience of our Christian product?

Let us do what Jesus did in humility and love,
 And so change our world.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesu Jesu--- Show us how to love the neighbors we have from you.