

Spiritual Washing

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John 13:1-10

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The FIRST THREE VERSES are a SENSE of this INTRODUCTION. They introduce major themes.

1) Christ's Love

John 13:1 – [1] *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

- Christ's HOUR is the moment of his CRUCIFIXION when he will make ATONEMENT for sins. This final PASSOVER event.
- *IT IS TIME for JESUS to DEPART out of this world to the Father.*
- Focuses attention From the masses to the few. From all of Israel to the remnant.
 - John writes – *“having loved his own who were in the world.”*
 - He has a SPECIFIC LOVE for them, His own.
- He loved them to the END (*telos*).
- He loved them to the END. He loved them to Completion. He LOVED them PERFECTLY.
 - Romans 8:38 – [38] *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2) Christ's Victory

Regarding the difficulty of this love even more... even in this moment, there is a betrayer in their midst.

John 13:2 – [2] *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,*

- Remember Jesus is about to ASSAULT SATAN'S KINGDOM. John 12:31 – [31] *Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*
- Judas had never BELIEVED in JESUS from the HEART.
- To be BETRAYED (*paradidomi*)
 - To Hand Over. To Give Over. To Give up.
 - John 18:30 – The Jewish leaders “hand over” Jesus to Pilate.
 - John 19:16 – Pilate hands over Jesus to the soldiers to crucify him.
 - But this handing over is from a friend.
 - It is translated betray, because it comes from one of his own disciples.
- Jesus fulfilled Psalm 55:20 – [20] *My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. [21] His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. [22] Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. [23] But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.*
- He will triumph over Satan.

3) Christ's Departure

John 13:3 - [3] *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God...*

- The SON stands in Father's stead as the authoritative representative of the Father.

- He has come into the WORLD. And now He is about to leave the world.
- He MUST TEACH his disciples some things quickly.

There are VITAL TRUTHS the disciples need to Understand. SPIRITUAL WASHING.

The Background of Spiritual Washing

Understand the DISTINCTION between BLOOD and WATER. A. W. Pink made this distinction. The blood in the Bible is *Godward*. The water is *Saintward*.

The BLOOD is always *Godward*. Heb 9:22 – [22] *Indeed under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.* (Quoting Leviticus 16)

- Of course only God can forgive sins.
- The blood of Christ serves as a JUDICIAL payment to God (His life for your life).
- Hebrews 9:12 – [12] *he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*
- Romans 3:25 – [25] *whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith...*
- Hebrews 10:14 – [14] *For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*
- The BLOOD serves to bring judicial reconciliation with GOD.
 - 1 John 1:7 – [7] *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us of all sin.*
 - 1 John 1:9 – [9] *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

The WATER is always *Saintward*.

- Water represents the experiential cleansing of the body of the soul.
- Numbers 19 – for you to be PURIFIED... you had to do ritual washings
- The WATER represents the cleansing of the SOUL of the BODY.
- The CLASSIC TEXT. Ezekiel 36:25 – [25] *I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. [26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
 - The CLEANSING of the Soul gives NEW AFFECTIONS.
 - The CLEANSING of the Soul purifies the CONSCIENCE.
 - John 3:5 – [5] *Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he will not enter the Kingdom of God*

Servant

John 13:4 – [4] *rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.*

- Jesus does this in the middle of the Dinner. Not before. This is intentional.
- Normally this is done on ARRIVAL.
- It is about teaching a SPIRITUAL LESSON.
- And he takes the FORM of a BOND-SLAVE.
 - Mark 10:45 – [45] *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
 - The WAY JESUS saves is through His SERVICE on the CROSS.

John 13:5 – [5] *Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

- One-by-one he goes to each disciple and washes their feet.

Wash

John 13:6 – [6] *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"*

John 13:7 - [7] *Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand."*

- There is a deeper SYMBOLISM.

But why FOOT WASHING? The Feet are Symbolic of your Way of Life. Your Walk.

- Deuteronomy 10:12 – [12] *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways...*
- Psalm 1:1 – [1] *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.*
- Ephesians 4:1 – [1] *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*
- Ephesians 5:18 – [18] *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.*

The PROBLEM. As the CHRISTIAN WALKS through this world... we all get DIRT on our FEET.

- We are all weighed down by SIN. GUILT. SHAME.
- So the WASHING of the FEET represents NEEDED SPIRITUAL CLEANSING.

Share

John 13:8 – [8] *Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."*

- "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."
 - If you are NOT WASHED by me, you have no PART with CHRIST.
 - You must receive CHRIST.
 - If you do NOT receive His Grace and Benefits. You have no PART or SHARE with CHRIST.
- Revelation 21:8 – [8] *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in a lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*

Bathe

John 13:9 – [9] *Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"*

- That should be your reaction!
- Lord, wash me COMPLETELY, because I WANT all of YOU.
- I want the PART of you completely.

John 13:10 – [10] *Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you."*

How do you DEAL with the ISSUE of HUMAN DEPRAVITY? Regeneration/New Birth

- Romans 7:18 – [18] *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. [19] For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*
- That's the Life of the Unbeliever.

- Solomon says The UNCOVERED MAN. Proverbs 26:11 – [11] *Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.*
 - God deals with that through REGENERATION.
 - Titus 3:5 – [5] *he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*
 - This Spiritual washing happens through the power of the Word of God.
 - Ephesians 5:26 – [26] *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word...*
 - James 1:18 – [18] *Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth...*
 - 1 Peter 1:23 – [23] *...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.*

If you have been born again, you are Bathed. You are Clean. This is why Jesus says, “*The one who is bathed does not need to wash.*”

- You don’t need to be born again twice.
- CHRIST cleanses you of your SIN and PURIFIES you through the Word of God.

And this is why Jesus says of Judas... He is not even CLEAN. He is NOT even BORN AGAIN.

So he says the Disciples are Bathed, Except their Feet. This represents the Sin of the Saints. That they need their FEET WASHED.

- The Foot Washing represents the daily conviction and repentance of our sin.
- This Foot Washing Happens as you ENCOUNTER the truth.
- John 17:17 – [17] *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

APPLICATION

- 1) You Need a Daily Encounter with the Word of God
- 2) You Need to Sit Underneath the Word of God
- 3) You Need to be Receptive to Having Your Feet Washed