

Feet Washing

John 13:1-17

Introduction:

- A. Feet washing is mentioned in both Testaments (Gen. 19:2; 1 Tim. 5:10)
- B. Feet washing services, as acts of worship, are held by some religious groups.
- C. Did Jesus institute feet washing as an act of worship, like the Lord's Supper?
- D. Did the early church practice feet washing as an act of worship?
- E. A careful look at our text will show that Jesus used feet washing to teach his disciples two lessons:

Discussion:

I. The Disciples Needed to Learn *Hospitality*.

- A. The disciples needed their feet washed (vv. 8-10).
- B. Washing another's feet was an act of hospitality, not worship.
 - 1. In the Old Testament (Gen. 18:3-5; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; 1 Sam. 25:41; 2 Sam 11:8; Judges 19:20)
 - 2. In the New Testament (1 Tim. 5:9, 10)
- C. Washing another's feet was not a part of the New Testament church's worship.
 - 1. They met for the Lord's supper and other acts of worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18ff)
 - 2. They were told they "ought" to do many things other than worship (cf. v. 14; Eph. 5:28; 1 John 3:16; 4:11).

II. The Disciples Needed to Learn *Humility*.

- A. The same evening they were arguing over who should be the greatest in the kingdom (Lk. 22:24-27)
- B. Jesus uses this object lesson to teach them humility – not worship (vv. 13-16).
- C. Jesus used various means to teach humility.
 - 1. Little children (Matt. 18:1-4)
 - 2. Parables (cf. Lk. 14:7-11; 18:9-14)
 - 3. His own examples (Phil. 2:3-8).
- D. Pride is such a destructive sin (cf. Prov. 16:18-19)
 - 1. Caused Herod to be eaten of worms (Acts 12:20-23).
 - 2. Leads to other sins (1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:2; 1 Tim. 6:3,4)
 - 3. Hinders genuine obedience (cf. Phil. 2:8; 2 King 5:13).
 - 4. Hinders confession and correction of sin.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us be humble enough to serve in the "little things" of life.
- B. Let us be humble enough to perform any needful act of hospitality daily.
- C. Let us be humble enough to obey God in all things – even the simple plan of salvation.