

Before we take the Lord's Supper, we often consider an aspect of Jesus' death on the cross.

God's design for coming to the Lord's Table is that we would thankfully remember Jesus' sufferings, death, His shed blood and for our sins!

This morning, I would like to consider something that the Lord Jesus did AFTER He and His (12) apostles ate that last supper. John 13:1-17

Let me begin by saying, if Jesus was simply teaching His disciples to wash each other's feet, He would not have said: (V7): "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter", and (V12): "Know ye not what I have done to you?" Do you know what I just did to each of you?

Again, if Jesus was simply teaching them to wash each other's feet, why did He say these things to them. Beloved, I don't believe Jesus was teaching them to literally wash each other's feet; what He was doing was "giving them (and us) an example", of what we should do every day for each other as Christians.

Peter initially resisted the Lord, "you will never wash my feet"; that's what servants do! Precisely Peter! I am your Lord and Master, yet I am humbly serving you!

After Peter's exchange with Him, He said in (V10-11). "He that is washed needeth not save (or except) to wash his feet, but is clean every whit, (or he is completely clean); and ye are clean, but not all. For He knew who should betray Him; therefore, said He, ye are not all clean."

Though the Lord Jesus had not yet died on the cross, they had believed His Word, and they believed Him to be God's Messiah. And after He died on the cross and rose again, they believed in Him MORE. But look at these passages, the words of Christ about them, before He went to His cross.

John 15:3, 17:6-8, 14, 17, 20, Ephesians 5:25-27

They were all completely clean through the Word that Jesus had taught them, except of course for Judas. So, what was Jesus teaching THEM and US by only washing their feet? Do you know what I just did to you?

You call me Master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

Do you recall Wednesday evening's message and what the scriptures teach us to do for one another? We are to COMFORT ONE ANOTHER with the truth that the Lord Jesus will return for us AS HE PROMISED!

But also, we are to "CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER" and PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER unto love and good works. Look at John 13:34-35...

There are many "one another's" that we are to be taking part in. Here in Jesus' example is ONE MORE thing that we OUGHT to be doing for one another as brethren!

Look at the example of the Lord Jesus, it wasn't beneath the Lord Jesus take the place of a humble servant before His own disciples.

He was their Lord and Master, and He was the one stooping down with a basin and towel and washing their feet. (13:14) Listen, it wasn't too long before this that His disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom... Mark 9:33-35, Matthew 20:27

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples, and He is teaching us:

Are you willing to humble yourself, stoop down and serve each other the way I have served you?

Are you willing to wash your brother or sister's feet, to help each other, at times, and in ways that might be difficult, messy, and humbling?

I take you back to Wednesday's message again. If you're going to be a helper of one another, and a strengthener of each other's faith, you must be one who "considers one another".

You must be involved and an active participant in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ. When they need help, when they need their feet washed, you're more than willing to do it for them. It's not beneath you to take the place of a servant! To take the place that your Lord took!

He was about to suffer for the sins of the world, BUT before He suffered, He taught His disciples (AND US) how to serve!

You won't serve unless you are humble; AND... You won't wash your brother or sister's feet, unless you are willing to be looked upon as a servant. John 13:15-17