



**SERIES: John Believe**  
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**Friday, March 17, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 13:6-9**  
**TITLE: Accepting the Master's Gift**

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we'll talk about accepting the Master's gift

We are in the Gospel of John 13:6-9.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 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." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus and the disciples are in the upper room, celebrating the Passover feast. It's their last night together, as on Friday morning Jesus will be arrested and crucified. Jesus had just demonstrated His love and humility towards them all by stooping low to wash their feet. Jesus was humbly obedient to God, in order to serve us, and He loved His disciples to the very end, even Judas who would soon betray Him.

At this moment, Jesus is going around the table, washing their feet when He gets to Peter. Peter is naturally surprised, they all were, because this is not what they would expect their Lord and Master to do. Peter, as a natural-born leader, speaks up. The Son of God washing his feet? Oh no. No, no, no. To Peter, it should be the other way around. But you see, Peter didn't get it.

Peter is my favorite apostle because of His passion for Christ. He has a God-given discernment and judgment about Jesus. He is a bit brash, but he's loyal despite his faults. He's the kind of guy you want to have your back. He's repentant. He's humble in status, "I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8), and he can take discipline from the Lord and grow stronger, "Get behind me satan!" (Mark 8:33) But boy, he sure puts his foot in his mouth a lot.

On one hand Peter and the disciples really missed the point at times. Even though Peter identified Jesus as the Christ, and the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16) he totally forgot about Jesus telling them "whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43). He forgot the lessons on humility. Peter didn't get that Christ would humiliate Himself all the way to the cross. He couldn't accept that, which is why Jesus rebuked him.

On the other hand, there were many times Christ would work or teach and the meaning wasn't immediately known to the disciples, but afterward they'd understand. Just think of the many

parables or the cursing of the fig tree. Jesus says the same thing is true here, afterwards they will understand.

After what? After the foot washing? Jesus tells Peter it has to be this way, not the way Peter was imagining it. In order to be covered by the Grace of Christ you have to be washed by Christ. And Peter quickly changes his mind, "Wash all of me!" And he accepts the Master's gift. But, he didn't understand it yet. He didn't understand that to be washed is a spiritual cleansing, not physical. How do you wash your heart? How do you cleanse your soul? Not by bathing. Jesus washing their feet was an example of spiritual cleansing which was accomplished at the cross. So no, the understanding did not come after the foot washing.

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins, and only the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. Only in Him may we have redemption through His blood. It is a gift from God, but we have to accept it. When we turn to Christ we are washed completely clean from our sin, so God no longer sees us in our sin but He sees the blood of His Son shed for us. So understanding for Peter and the disciples would come later. After the cross. After the resurrection.

And you know what happened? John got it. The disciples got it. Paul got it. And Peter got it. Peter went on to write in 1 Peter 1:18-19

Knowing that you were ransomed... not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

They got it, up through their dying breath, they got it. At the end of his life Peter wrote from prison this found in 2 Peter 1:12, 13, 15 (NASB)

Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things...as long as I am in this earthly dwelling...that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

Peter got it, and he wants you to get these things. God wants you to get it. God offers you a gift, salvation from sin and eternal life. Would you accept the Master's gift?