



SERIES: John Believe
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Saturday, March 18, 2023
Scripture: John 13:10-15
TITLE: Follow the Master's Example

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today let's follow the Master's example.

We are in the Gospel of John 13:10-15 which reads;

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." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

Jesus and the disciples are spending their last night together. In a few hours He will be arrested, and crucified. During dinner, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. It was a symbol of Christ's love, humility, spiritual cleansing and also, we'll see, an example for us to follow.

Peter quickly changed his mind from not wanting to be served in such a lowly way by his Master and Lord to saying, "Wash all of me!" Just think, if you had showered today, then ran a few errands, and stopped by a friend's place for lunch you wouldn't go take another shower before eating, you'd just wash your hands.

Jesus tells Peter, you're already clean, you just need to wash your hands (or feet in this case). What does that mean for us? It means that when you turn from your sin and trust Christ as the only One who can save you, His blood sufficiently cleanses you from all unrighteousness. But does that make you perfect? No, we will still sin. So what do we do about that? We go on confessing our sins to Christ and He goes on cleansing us from it (1 John 1:9).

That doesn't mean you lost your salvation in that period of time and have to get it back. It means that you want to kill your sin. So you pray for the Holy Spirit to convict you, to transform you, and you examine yourself. You wish you wouldn't sin, but when you do you want to keep confessing that to the Lord. Remember, you are saved. Just like Peter doesn't get it all the time. He sins, but Jesus assures him, "you are clean."

But not everyone was clean. Not everyone in Jesus' circle had believed in the light of Christ. Judas was still lost in his darkness. Your heart, your mind, cannot be hidden from God. No one is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (Hebrews 4:13). The dreadful thing is that Judas spent years in Christ's presence and still wouldn't believe Him. But, Christ still served and taught him, even though Judas would betray Him.

Jesus takes a moment here to explain the purpose of Him, as the Master, washing His disciples' feet. He asks them directly if they get it. Of course they know Jesus just washed their feet, but as we saw previously, they don't always understand. But Jesus understands His disciples, and He knows there are times when they need things to be explained. It's what any good teacher would do. We too, should follow Christ's example as a Teacher. In Acts 8:30-31, when the Ethiopian along the side of the road was struggling to read Isaiah, Phillip asked,

“Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

God wants to guide us. It's why Jesus lived His life. It's why He's given us His Word and given some to be teachers in the Church. Jesus explains that if we call Him Teacher and Lord, then we should learn His lessons and do what He asks. First because we love Him. He says in John 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Second, because Jesus says it's true, “For so I am” The Lord. He is the Lord. This concept is often missing among Christians today. Jesus isn't your buddy, He isn't some moral teacher, He isn't your boyfriend, He isn't an activist. He is Lord of the living and the dead and He is Lord now, not at the end of time. On His robe are written King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Son of God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to Him. The nations are His inheritance and His enemies will be a footstool for His feet. At His name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord.

So how ought we to respond to such a One as this? Who saved us from our despair? Who ransomed us, His very enemies? Who even gave His life for us? Well, He has given us an example so that we also should do just as He has done. Obey God. Be humble towards others. Love those whom God loves. He's our Master. Learn from Him, and follow His example.