

**“LET JESUS WASH YOU”**

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY MEDITATION**

**TEXT: JOHN 13:1-11**

**GOD’S WORD: NUMEROUS**

**I – TEXT:**

Tonight’s meditation text is the beginning of the Apostle John’s Passion narrative. It starts this way...

**John 13:1-11 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. <sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

<sup>8</sup> “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”

Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”

<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” <sup>11</sup> For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

**II – EXPOSITION OF TEXT:**

As we come to this place in the life of Jesus John lets us know that Jesus is fully aware of what is going on. He is conscious of who he is, why he’s there, and what’s going to happen. He knew his time had come. His earthly suffering and death was near. It had to be so. Early in Joh’s Gospel we read that John the Baptist had seen Jesus approaching him in the wilderness and had called out, “behold, here comes the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.” The Apostle John now ties together the history of the Jewish people. Moses had delivered God’s people from slavery after the blood of the lamb marked their houses so the angel of death passed over. Jesus, via the cross, now spreads his blood on the cross to begin the new covenant of redemption for God’s children. A new era for believers.

But it seems the focus of this passage is the washing of feet by Jesus. Normally when you came in off the street the host would have a servant take off your sandals and wash your feet from a basin by the front door. He was alone with his disciples and there were no servants to perform this menial task. Obviously none of the disciples were going to appear lower than the others and do it so sometime as the meal began Jesus got up, disrobed, wrapped a towel around himself, poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet. He humbled himself into the position of servant instead of master and teacher they had come to know.

It doesn't say anything about any of the other disciples raising a fuss or telling Jesus he shouldn't be doing such a thing...but then he came to Peter. By this time we doubt not that Peter loved Jesus. That Peter says he would die for Jesus, and Peter certainly wasn't going to let Jesus wash his feet and protests that Jesus should not be acting this way. It demeans him and his position among them. But Jesus tells him that if he doesn't allow this to happen he won't belong to Jesus. Then Peter says wash all of me. Give me a full bath Lord. But Jesus tells him it's not necessary. He's already taken his bath and just his feet need washed. And the same thing applies to the other disciples, except one...Judas.

### **III – WHAT DID JESUS MEAN?:**

On this Holy Night I want to take a moment and make sure you completely understand what Jesus was saying. It's important because I believe it applies to all of us believers today.

Jesus was saying that all but one of his disciples had been cleaned by him internally. They had come to know him and love him. They had come to believe he was the Son of God, the Messiah as he said he was. They had watched him walk on water, heal people, cast out demons, calm storms, and do miracle after miracle like feeding multitudes of people with only a small basket of food. They knew all of this. But they still live in the world. And sometimes that world put dirt on them. Made them think things they shouldn't think, say things they shouldn't say, and do things they shouldn't do. They had to have Jesus get that external dirt off of them and bring them back to his cleanliness.

### **IV - WE GET DIRTY:**

Just like his original disciples we get dirty too. We believe. We know that Jesus is the Son of God. We have put our full trust in him. We have faith that he died for us and because of his sacrifice we have received forgiveness of our sins. We trust that his resurrection defeated sin and death and enables us to live eternally too. We try to be good followers and live the way he would want us to.

Our hearts are in the right place. Jesus lives there and cleanses us internally, but like those early disciples, we too still live in the world. We still sin and pick up the occasional dirt. It's then that we need to let Jesus wash us. We need to humble ourselves, turn to Jesus, repent and ask him to remove the latest dirt/sin we have picked up. We need to turn back to the one who has washed us so thoroughly on the inside, and let him do it again on the outside.

### **V – LET JESUS WASH YOU:**

This is a special night in the life of the church and I want it to be a special night in the life of your faith too. If you're like me you have dirt on you. Tonight you can let Jesus wash you. Tonight as we go through the rest of this service I invite you to concentrate on your relationship with Jesus. I want you to envision the dirt you are carrying around and I want you to let Jesus wash it away.

Tonight's service is a little different. I know you would never wash each other's feet but I think we sin more with our hands than our feet anyhow. So we will give you the opportunity to come and wash your hands as symbolic of the cleansing of Jesus.

This will be followed by another opportunity to repent and let Jesus wash you in his blood as well as with water as you come to his table and share in the Holy Meal. Every time we come to this table it should trigger and form memories that you were once bound and now are free from your sins and you belong to the God who saved you. May you be washed this night. AMEN