

## Whose Feet Would You Not Wash?

Joe Slater

As I was reading, I came across a question that struck me as profound: “Do you know anyone whose feet you would not wash?”

That question came, of course, from John 13 where Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. We often notice Peter’s initial objection, but miss the significant truth that Jesus washed Judas’ feet right along with those of the other eleven. Our Lord knew all along who would betray Him, yet He washed his feet.

Jesus came not “*to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*” (Matthew 10:28). Not one of the disciples, who had just been disputing with each other over who would be greatest (Luke 22:24), offered to wash the feet of the others in that upper room. That was the duty of a servant! So, Jesus laid aside His outer garments, took a basin and towel, and showed them that true greatness manifests itself in service.

Jesus didn’t concern Himself with who was better than whom, or who was worthy and who wasn’t. Dirty feet needed washing. Jesus, the Teacher and Lord, washed them – even the feet of Judas.

Serving people whom we know and like comes easily. What about those we don’t even know? Or those we know but don’t like? And certain avenues of service appeal to us more than others. Washing dirty feet doesn’t sound particularly pleasant. You can probably think of other less-than-thrilling tasks where your instinctive response is, “*eeew! I don’t want to do that!*”

Are there people whose feet you wouldn’t wash? Are there jobs you simply would refuse to do? Take a closer look at Jesus. “*For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you*” (John 13:15).

## Take a Good Look at God

Often I look at pictures on my wall of Yosemite National Park; it allows me to take a mental break. There is the majesty of the mountains, breath-taking waterfalls, rushing rivers, and the quiet meadow. The wonder, complexity, and breath-taking beauty, for me, points to God’s power and majesty displayed in His handiwork.

David looks beyond a nature scene and encourages us to look deeper and gaze upon the beauty of God. “*One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple*” (Psalm 27:4). It is profound to look at nature and become immersed in recognizing and praising a God who provides, who keeps His promises, and who displays His vast wisdom through His creation.

How can a person find life’s direction without stopping to gaze at God? Life would be only a maze of trial, error, and despair. David expresses His faith in the living God Who led him through a multitude of obstacles and challenges. David’s enduring faith and trust were greater than the problems he encountered. Like David, we can see God in everything around us. Every day we need to take time to look around us and be amazed at the Creator we serve.

--Larry Cain (via *Power for Today*)

## Count Your Blessings

We are so blessed in this country that we often take the blessings for granted. We ought to do as the song says, “Count your blessings, name them one by one.” We sometimes do that at Thanksgiving, but we ought to do it regularly. Below are just a few of the blessings we can count. Form your own list and meditate on how blessed you are.

### Our physical families.

Our church family – many of us are closer to our church family than our physical families because we have the same goals, purpose, and standard (Galatians 3:26-29).

The blessing of having God's word (the Bible) in our own language, and it is so easily accessible, (Psalm 119).

Times when we can assemble for Bible study and worship so that we can be encouraged (Hebrews 10:25).

The blessing of having a conscience free from guilt because of the forgiveness we find in Christ (Romans 8:1).

The blessing of prayer where we have a mediator between us and God, the Father, who understands us and our needs, more than we understand ourselves (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16).

The blessing of having joy and peace in the depth of our souls even though we live in a world of conflict and turmoil (Philippians 4:6-8).

The blessing of having time after laboring for our physical necessities. There are places in the world where nearly waking hour is spent just trying to put together the essentials for one's family (Matthew 6:19-33).

The blessings of so many time-saving appliances which makes life easy so that we can have time to do other things, (Ephesians 5:16).

The physical comforts such as warm homes, nice cars, enough income that we can enjoy life and what it has to offer (I Timothy 6:8-10).

The blessing of living in such a beautiful place so that we can enjoy the wonderful sunrises and sunsets and the mighty mountains around us. Let's take time to enjoy them (Psalm 19:1-6).

And the list goes on....

--Wayne Burger (Littleton, NH)