

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY # 63

WASHING OF FEET AND THE BAREFOOT SONS OF GOD

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And, supper being ended, the devil having put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God and went to God; He riseth from supper and laid aside His garments and took a towel and girded Himself. After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then cometh He to Simon Peter, and Peter said unto Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I wash you not, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said unto Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also, my hands and my head." Jesus said unto him, "He that is washed [bathed] needed no except to wash His feet but is entirely clean, and you are clean, but not all of you."

John 13: 1-10

The occasion is the Last Supper, which we celebrate today as Maundy Thursday Communion. The disciples have been arguing over who is greatest (Luke 22:24). Jesus gives them the answer in this simple action. He willingly makes Himself their servant (Luke 22:27). We must, like Jesus, be willing to serve our brothers and sisters with humility and selfless love. The lowliest household servant was generally the one who washed the feet of the household members and the guests of the household (John 1:27 & Luke 7:44).

The imagery of this passage is of a man of that time and culture returning from the public baths to his house. He had been bathed and was clean. However, his feet became dirty again from walking home and would need to be washed, but not his whole body. Thus, a believer is cleansed from all sin "once and for all" (Hebrews 10:1-12) when he accepts the atoning Blood of Christ to cleanse him, but he needs throughout his earthly life to seek forgiveness for his daily sins by confessing them to the Father so that he might have unbroken fellowship with God the Father and God the Son. The

blood cleanses the believer from all guilt, but he needs daily cleansing from sin.

Footwear consisted of cheap sandals fastened with straps (Amos 2:6). The sandals were taken off on entering a house or holy place (Exodus 3:5 & Joshua 5:15). By taking off the shoes, a person was, in effect, saying that he relinquished or gave-up his rights. At all other times, walking on bare feet was a sign of mourning (2nd Samuel 15:30 & Ezekiel 24:17 & 23).

HOW DOES CHRIST WASH US TODAY?

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Psalm 119:9

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
John 15:3

“even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
Ephesians 5:25-26

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1st John 1:9

Are you willing to be symbolically washed. His Word says that we can be made clean again by confession and repentance. When we come to a place of true repentance, we will see the revival that many of us so long to see.