



Calvary of Albuquerque

Basin Theology 101 - John 13:6-17

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

At the final Passover meal that Jesus shared with His closest friends, He gave new meaning to the bread and wine, using them to point to His upcoming sacrificial death on the cross. Today we share Communion as a church family and reflect on that meal, as well as the lessons Jesus was teaching His first followers. After dinner Jesus took a basin of water and began to wash the feet of his students and taught them life principles about stooping, cleansing and serving.

OUTLINE

- I. Stooping is Often Misunderstood (vv. 6-9)
- II. Cleansing is Never Unnecessary (vv. 10-11)
- III. Serving is Always Indispensable (vv. 12-17)



Applying Basin Theology:

1. What humble task is especially difficult for you to do? Why? From reading this chapter, do you think the Lord is telling you to change in that area? How could you take the first step?
2. How important (and even how practical) is it to model your life after Jesus' life? How different would your life look if this were so?
3. Why are titles important to some people? Could this reveal the condition of the heart?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Theology
 1. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*
 2. Systematic theology, historical theology, biblical theology, Johannine Theology
 - B. Basin theology
 1. Jesus "rose from supper and laid aside His garments, 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." (John 13:4-5)
 2. Basins
 - a. Pontius Pilate washed his hands in self-preservation (See Matthew 27:24)
 - b. Jesus washed the disciples' feet in self-sacrifice
 3. Live basin theology
 - a. See the needs of others with a desire to serve and meet those needs
 - b. Emerge from being cleansed ourselves and seek to forgive others and teach them how they can be cleansed
- II. Stooping is Often Misunderstood (vv. 6-9)
 - A. The scene
 1. Not like the *Last Supper* by Leonardo Da Vinci
 2. Disciples reclined around a 3-sided table (triclinium) with their feet toward the back
 3. Jesus worked the perimeter of the room, washing their feet
 - B. Peter
 1. Always trying to be "Joe Spiritual" without much success
 - a. "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:21-23)
 - b. "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And

behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!' (Matthew 17:1-5)

- a. "Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus." (John 18:10)
2. "You shall by no means, under any circumstances wash my feet--no, never!" (v. 8)
3. Not genuine humility--you don't tell God what to do
 - a. Peter's vision and refusal to eat (See Acts 10:9-15)
 - b. Peter at first refused the foot washing
4. Humility misunderstood
 - a. It is not: thinking poorly of yourself
 - b. It is: not thinking of yourself at all
5. False humility is actually pride
- C. From objection to overreaction
 1. Give me a bath!
 2. Peter had a hard time watching Jesus serve because Peter had trouble serving
 3. Trying to "out-humble" Jesus

III. Cleansing is Never Unnecessary (vv. 10-11)

- A. Peter
 1. clean; he had a bath, he needs his feet washed
 2. Foot washing
 - a. Before dinner take a bath
 - b. Walk dusty roads to dinner, feet get dirty
 - c. Servant wash your feet; not another bath
- B. "Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.'" (v. 10)
 1. Λούω - louo - to wash the entire person; the whole body
 2. Νίπτω - nipto - selectively wash a portion of the body
 3. Come to Jesus Christ: "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (Hebrews 8:12)
 4. Walk through the corrupt world, we get dirty feet "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
 5. All Christians have union with God because of what Jesus did; not all Christians have communion with God. Communion can be broken by a barrier of sin.
 - a. Sin must be confessed
 - b. We do not need to be born again-again
 - c. Unconfessed sin hinders our relationship with God
 - d. "You will have no part with me" - broken communion
 - e. Followers of Christ keep short accounts with God
 - i. "Search me, O God, and know my heart;" (Psalm 139:23)
 - ii. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)
 - iii. Cleansing from sin is not a one-time event; confession is necessary to restore communion with God
 6. "Give a man religion without reminding him of his filth, and the result will be arrogance in a three- piece suit." -Max Lucado
- C. Judas would betray him
 1. What Judas heard
 - a. Jesus' teachings
 - b. The Sermon on the Mount
 - c. About forgiveness of sin
 2. What Judas saw
 - a. People raised from the dead
 - b. Healings
 - c. Jesus walk on water
 - d. Jesus multiply the loaves and fish
 3. Judas sounded spiritual
 4. Judas was a hypocrite
 - a. He was never bathed all over
 - b. A person can be very close to salvation, hear all the right things, sing all the right songs, carry a Bible--and be lost.
- D. Hypocrisy
 1. Jesse James
 - a. Killed a person in a train robbery and was baptized the same day
 - b. Killed two people in a bank robbery and joined the church choir on the same day
 2. "Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21 NLT)
 3. It doesn't help to get your feet washed if you haven't had a bath to begin with.

IV. Serving is Always Indispensable (vv. 12-17)

- A. "Do you understand what I was doing?" (v. 12)
 1. Probably did not understand

2. They had been arguing about who will be greatest in the kingdom
 3. The mother of James and John asked that they sit on the right and left of Jesus in the coming kingdom (See Matthew 20:21)
 4. "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." (Matthew 20:25-26)
- B. Jesus calls them to serve
1. He is boss - if He does it, so can you
 2. He is the example - watch what He has done and do it
 3. If you do it, you'll be happy
 - a. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." (v. 17)
 - b. Humbleness equals happiness
- C. Moved emotionally, challenged intellectually: change spiritually when applied
- D. Great need in the church: restoration "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)
1. Not with ice-cold water; cold and formal
 2. Not with scalding-hot water; angry and judgmental
 3. Not scraping without water; abrasive
- E. The Skin Horse had lived longer in the nursery than any of the others. He was so old that his brown coat was bald in patches and showed the seams underneath, and most of the hairs in his tail had been pulled out to string bead necklaces. He was wise, for he had seen a long succession of mechanical toys arrive to boast and swagger, and by-and-by break their mainsprings and pass away, and he knew that they were only toys, and would never turn into anything else. For nursery magic is very strange and wonderful, and only those playthings that are old and wise and experienced like the Skin Horse understand all about it.
- 'What is REAL?' asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. 'Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?'
- 'Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.'
- 'Does it hurt?' asked the Rabbit.
- 'Sometimes,' said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. 'When you are Real you don't mind being hurt.'
- 'Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,' he asked, 'or bit by bit?'
- 'It doesn't happen all at once,' said the Skin Horse. 'You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.' (*The Velveteen Rabbit*, by Margery Williams)

Greek Terms: Λούω - louo - to wash the entire person; the whole body; Νίπτω - nipto - selectively wash a portion of the body

Figures Referenced: Max Lucado

Publications Referenced: *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*, by Charles Ryrie; *The Last Supper*, by Leonardo Da Vinci; *The Velveteen Rabbit*, by Margery Williams

Cross References: Psalm 139:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 16:21-23; Matthew 17:1-5; Matthew 20:21; Matthew 20:25-26; Matthew 27:24; John 13:4-5; John 18:10; Acts 10:9-15; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 8:12; 1 John 1:9