

"Show them God" John 13:6-10 / 1 Peter 5:1-5

Intro:

Sometimes statements are made in the Bible we never follow up on. Such is the case here in John 13. Jesus made a statement to Peter, but, did it ever come to pass?

John 13:6-10

v. 7; "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."

Jesus tells Peter, at the time, he doesn't grasp the significance of Jesus' actions, but eventually he would.

What was the point of what Jesus did?

Two issues embedded in Jesus' actions:

1) A Theological Truth

This event is not simply a matter of dirty feet. It is a picture God uses to reveal a greater truth.

The disciples feet were dirty. They had a need for them to be cleaned.

Jesus was the source of their "cleansing."

Jesus illustrates that He as He was the one who cleanses them from dirt, that He would be the one to wash away their sin.

This is what the cross provides.

2) A Chosen Method

Jewish Custom was that water would be provided for people to wash their own feet (Gen. 18:3-4, 19:2, 24:32).

It was also a theological practice; the priests had to wash their hands and feet before coming before the Lord (Ex. 30:18-21).

But what is note worthy here, is that water was not just provided, Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet.

Jesus choose to demonstrate His atoning work (cleansing from sin) by offering Himself as a servant. In so doing Jesus highlighted the importance of servanthood.

If Jesus could serve people, so were they (John 13:16).

Jesus wanted Peter to grasp that people have a need to be cleansed of their sin and that servanthood is the means for this message to be shared.

Is there any evidence Peter ever got Jesus' point?

1 Peter 5:1-4

In the later stages of Peter's life he wrote leaders of the church to encourage them. What was his message to them?

vv. 2-4; He told them to shepherd, care for, serve, those whom they have been entrusted.

This is bring delight to the one who has shepherded and cared for us.

Service in the Kingdom of God is a high priority.

As Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve by giving His life as a "ransom for many" (Mark 10:45), Those who follow Him are to give themselves in service to others.

Service is not optional, it is integral. It is not something for a select few, but for all (Eph, 5:21)

Closing:

People need to be cleansed from their sin. Jesus cleanses all who come to Him in faith by His death, burial and resurrection.

As God served humanity in the atonement, His pattern for propagating the Gospel message entails His disciples serving others (John 13:35).

Is service in your understanding of being a disciple?

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