

Dirty Feet



ARE WE WILLING TO WASH THEIR FEET?

The Easter Experience
Week 1

What is the purpose of our lives?

- **“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”**

Eleanor Roosevelt

- **“Everyone must work to live, but the purpose of life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others. Only then have we ourselves become true human beings.”**

Albert Schweitzer

Jesus' Purpose

- *²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.*
- *²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.*
- *She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."*
- *²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"*
- *"We can," they answered.*
- *²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." Matt 28: 20-23*

Jesus' Purpose

- *²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matt 28: 24-28*

How did Jesus serve?

- Jesus performed miracles.
 - Glorify God.
 - Help people to believe in Him, so they could be saved.
 - Help people in need.
- Jesus taught people using parables to help them to understand what God is like and what awaits believers in heaven.
- Jesus stood up for the outcasts of society so they knew they were important to Him.
- When Jesus was in a situation to help someone, He did it. Jesus served everyone. He did not discriminate.

- How quick are we to serve the Lord when we know it is not going to be easy?
- Do we allow the opinions of others to get in our way?
- Does our schedule come before service?
- When we do serve, is it out of love or guilt?
- Are we prepared to serve?

A Beautiful Act of Love and Service

- *³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*
- *³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." Luke 7:36-39*
- The woman knew she was going to be ridiculed for her actions. She did not care. She just wanted to serve Jesus and show her love for Him. **Would we have cleaned Jesus' feet?**

Jesus Serves the Woman

- *⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”*
- *⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”*
- *⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”*
- *⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*
- Luke 7: 44-50
- Jesus let this woman know she was loved and her actions were appreciated. He stood up for her and gave her peace. **Do our actions reflect our love for Christ?**

Jesus Washes Everyone's Feet

- *³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.* John 13: 3-5
- That night Jesus performed one of the lowliest acts a person could do- wash other's feet. The lowest servant would do this in a household. Jesus washed every apostles' feet, even Judas' feet.
What does this tell us about our Savior? What does this tell us about how we should serve?

Are we going to wash others' feet?

- *¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” John 13:12-17*
- After hearing this story, does our view of service change?
- Do we have a greater appreciation for our Lord?

Called to Be Like Christ

- *¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.* Hebrews 5: 1-2
- Jesus set the example of service for us. He lowered Himself and came to Earth to serve all and to love all.
- We are reminded in Matthew 25: 38-40, that when we serve others, we are serving God.
- ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
- May we imitate Christ and put others' needs in front of our own and serve others with joy and gladness.