

“Ye Are Clean”
John 13:6-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Now Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To John 13 - Where:
 - The Last Time We Where Here:
 - We Saw Jesus Serve!
 - Even As He Took:
 - The Feet Of His Disciples:
 - Into His Own Hands:
 - To Wash Them!
2. And - What Jesus Started:
 - He Intended To Finish:
 - One By One & Foot By Foot!
 - But - As We Will See:
 - From The Verses We Come To Next:
 - There Was An Interruption!
 - An Interruption To:
 - The Service Of Jesus! And:
 - An Interruption That:
 - Broke The Silence In That Upper Room!
3. And - We Find This Interruption:
 - In 13:6-11 - Where:
 - Peter Speaks Up In Protest!
 - Now - We're Not Sure Where Peter Was:
 - In Line - As Jesus Was Making His Way Around The Table!
 - But - When Jesus Finally Reached Him:
 - Peter And Jesus:
 - Have This Exchange!
 - 3:6-11 - "Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? / Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. / Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. / Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. / Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. / For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean!"
4. What We Find In These Verses:
 - Is That - Once Again:
 - Jesus Uses Something Physical:
 - To Teach His Disciples:
 - Something Spiritual!
 - Before - Jesus Talked About:
 - Water & Bread & Light!
 - But - In Each Case:
 - He Used These Common, Physical Objects To Teach Us:
 - Spiritual Truth About Himself!
 - Well - It Is No Different Here!
 - But This Time - He Is Teaching:
 - In Both Word & Work!
 - In Both Explanation & Example!
 - And - Just Like We've Seen:
 - In Other Places In John:
 - As Jesus Deals With:
 - The Spiritual Level Of Things!
 - The People Understand Only:
 - The Physical Level Of Things!
 - 5. And This Is Why:
 - We Find 3 Responses By Peter:

- To The Service Of The Lord!
 - And - Though Peter Seems To Have:
 - The Best Of Intentions!
- Jesus Corrects His Misunderstanding:
 - So That He & We Might Know:
 - What It Means To Be Truly Clean!
- Because:
 - A True Heart For The Lord:
 - Will Accept What It Receives:
 - From The Hands Of The Lord!
- So - When Jesus Came To Peter:
 - At That Last Supper:
 - Peter Seems To First:

1. ***Respond With Humility!***

- As We Found In 3:6!
 - “Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?”
 - Now - As Jesus Prepared & Began To:
 - Wash His Disciples’ Feet:
 - It Seems Like The Room Fell Completely Silent!
 - After All - From The Other Gospel Accounts:
 - We Know That The Disciples Were:
 - Arguing About Which Of Them Would Be The First & The Greatest:
 - In Christ’s Kingdom!
 - Probably Whispering To Each Other Around The Table!
 - But - As Soon As Jesus:
 - Took On The Form Of A Servant:
 - In Both How He Looked & In What He Did - The Disciples Stopped Talking!
 - This May Have Been:
 - Out Of Shock!
 - This May Have Been:
 - Out Of Shame!
 - But - When Jesus Comes To Peter:
 - Peter Speaks Up:
 - For The Same Reasons!
 - Out Of Shock!
 - Out Of Shame!
 - And He Makes His:
- Challenge To Jesus!
 - Because - The Way He Talks To The Lord:
 - In This Verse:
 - Seems Broken & Almost Stammering!
 - “Lord? You? Me? Washing My Feet?”
 - “The Impression Is Given Of Peter Sputtering Astonishment And Incomprehension!” (George Beasley-Murray)
 - It Was As If Peter Wondered Out Loud:
 - Why Would Jesus:
 - Wash *His* Feet?
 - How *Could* Jesus:
 - Wash His Feet?
 - *For Him!*
 - In His Fallen Nature & Sinful Character!
 - This Was The Same Kind Of:
 - Humble Response Peter Had Expressed Earlier:
 - In Luke 5:8 - When He Said To Jesus:
 - “Depart From Me, For I Am A Sinful Man, O Lord!”
 - But - By This Time:
 - Peter Knew Even More:

- About His Nature & Character:
 - As Well As The Nature & Character Of Jesus!
- But - Even Though:
 - Peter's Intention Seems Right & Good:
 - In Truth - His Humility Was:
 - The Wrong Kind Of Humility!
 - Because He Was Not Willing:
 - To Humbly Receive:
 - What His Lord:
 - Was Offering Him!
 - Cleansing!
- And So - In 13:7 - We Find The:
 - Correction Of Jesus:
 - In His Reply To Peter!
 - "Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter!"
 - Here - Jesus Answers Peter:
 - To Correct Him - As Well As:
 - To Comfort Him!
 - To Correct Peter:
 - Jesus Wants Him To Understand That:
 - His Ways Were Still:
 - Much Higher & Better:
 - Than Peter Realized!
 - And - True Humility:
 - Accepts & Receives:
 - What Jesus Does:
 - Even Without Fully Understanding It!
 - "What I Do Thou Knowest Not!"
 - Can't This Be Said About Us?
 - In Our Lives? In Our Circumstances? We Believe That God Is In Control / But We Don't Understand It!
 - True Humility:
 - Accepts & Receives:
 - The Wisdom & The Works & The Words Of The Lord:
 - Even When You Don't Understand It / Him!
 - But - Jesus Did Not Leave It There! So:
 - To Comfort Peter:
 - Jesus Adds:
 - "But Thou Shalt Know Hereafter!"
 - In Other Words - Jesus Makes A Promise To Peter:
 - "You Will Understand One Day What You Don't Understand Today!"
 - So It Is With:
 - All Of God's Words & Works!
 - True Humility:
 - Will Accept That:
 - God's Ways Are Higher & Better Than Our Ways!
 - So - We Will Accept:
 - Whatever He Does In & For Our Lives!
 - True Humility Does Not Just:
 - Acknowledge God's Sovereignty!
 - "Lord!"
 - True Humility Will:
 - Accept God's Sovereignty!
 - And - This Was A Lesson:
 - That Peter Needed - And We Need:
 - To Learn!
 - A True Heart For The Lord:

- Will Accept What It Receives:
 - From The Hands Of The Lord!
- But - Peter Does Not Learn:
 - This Lesson Quite Yet!
 - And So - Peter Responds To The Lord And His Service:
 - A Second Time!
 - This Time - Peter Seems To:

2. ***Respond With Honor!***

- But - Just Like His Humility:
 - It Was The Wrong Kind Of Honor As Well!
 - Because Then - 13:8 - “Peter Saith Unto Him, Thou Shalt Never Wash My Feet!”
 - With These Words:
 - Peter Makes Yet Another:
- Challenge To Jesus!
 - And He Uses The Strongest Words Possible!
 - Absolutely Not!
 - You May Not Ever:
 - Wash My Feet!
 - After All - Peter Believed That:
 - It Was Far Beneath Jesus:
 - To Do A Task:
 - So Menial!
 - It Was Even As If Peter Was:
 - Denying Jesus Permission:
 - To Serve Him In This Way!
 - So - What May Have Seemed Like:
 - Honor - Was Instead:
 - A Display Of Hubris & Pride!
 - Which Can Often Happen:
 - When Confronted With The Deep & True Humility Of Others!
 - It Is Possible To Be Proud In Your Humility!
 - But - Once Again:
 - Jesus - In Grace - Replies!
 - And So - We Find The:
- Correction Of Jesus:
 - In The Rest Of 13:8:
 - “Jesus Answered Him, If I Wash Thee Not, Thou Hast No Part With Me!”
 - Now - Something We’ve Noticed:
 - In The Gospel Of John:
 - Is When Jesus “Answers” Someone:
 - He Gives Them The Answer They Need To Hear, Not Necessarily The Answer They Want To Hear!
 - This Is The Case Here As Well!
 - Peter Needed To Realize:
 - That What Jesus Was Doing:
 - Was On Another Level:
 - Than What Peter Had In Mind!
 - Peter Told Jesus:
 - “Thou Shalt Never Wash My Feet!”
 - But - Jesus Told Peter:
 - “If I Wash Thee Not!”
 - Peter Was Focused:
 - On His Feet - While Jesus:
 - Was Focused On His Person!
 - And - Peter Needed To Be Washed!
 - And - Peter Needed To Be Willing:
 - To Let Jesus Do The Washing!

- And So - What Jesus Would Do:
 - With His Disciples Feet:
 - Was Just A Sample & A Symbol:
 - Of What Jesus Was About To Do:
 - For Their Souls!
- And - True Humility & True Honor:
 - Before God - Means That:
 - You Realize That You Are:
 - Filthy & Unclean:
 - All The Way From The Outside To The Inside!
 - And - There Is Nothing:
 - That You Can Do:
 - To Wash / Cleanse Yourself!
 - You Need Someone Else!
 - You Need Jesus!
 - Who Is Everything That You Are Not!
- Because - Without This Washing:
 - You Will Have “No Part” With Jesus!
 - No Part In His:
 - Person / Purity / Promises / Peace!
 - And - A True Heart For The Lord:
 - Will Accept What It Receives:
 - From The Hands Of The Lord!
 - Now, It Seems:
 - Peter Starts To Learn The Lesson!
 - After All - Peter Did Believe:
 - In Christ & His Claims!
 - But - This Answer From Jesus:
 - His Own Lord & Master:
 - Must Have Horrified Him!
 - “No Part With Jesus?”
 - And So - This Time:
 - Peter Seems To:

3. ***Respond With Hunger!***

- A Hunger For The Washing & Cleansing:
 - That Jesus Was Offering To Him!
 - This Is What We Find Next In:
 - 13:9 - “Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!”
 - For Those Who Have Studied:
 - The Life Of Peter:
 - This Is True To His Nature!
 - Peter Was One Who:
 - Was Impetuous & Impulsive!
 - And So - In His Third:
- Challenge To Christ:
 - We Can See That When Jesus Shined His Light:
 - Into The Heart Of Peter:
 - And Exposed His:
 - False Humility & False Honor:
 - Of The Lord!
 - Peter Was Once Again:
 - Convinced That:
 - He Needed Cleansing! And:
 - He Needed Christ!
 - But - He Didn’t Yet Fully Understand:
 - The Connection Between The Two!

- He Didn't Yet Fully Understand:
 - How Christ Could Cleanse:
 - Someone Like Him!
- He Thought That:
 - The Water In Jesus' Hands:
 - Might Do The Trick!
 - So - He Wanted Jesus To Wash:
 - His Feet / His Hands / And His Head!
- But - Once Again:
 - In Grace & Tenderness:
 - Jesus Responds To Peter!
 - And In The:
- Correction Of Jesus:
 - We Learn That:
 - Washing Their Feet Was:
 - A Symbol Of His Cleansing!
 - Not The Style Of His Cleansing!
 - In Just A Few Hours Time:
 - They Would Learn That Jesus Would Wash Them:
 - Not With Water - But:
 - With Blood!
 - And So - Jesus Says:
 - In 13:10 - "Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean!"
 - Jesus Tells Peter & His Believing Disciples:
 - "Ye Are Clean!"
 - What A Comfort:
 - Peter & To The Other Disciples!
 - "Ye Are Clean!"
 - And Though At Times:
 - They Would Still Need To Have Their Feet Washed:
 - Because Of The Dirt They Would Come Into Contact With:
 - In This World!
 - They Were Still Washed!
 - By Him!
 - And - So It Is With You!
 - If You Have Received The Service Of Christ:
 - For The Salvation Of Your Soul:
 - In The True Humility & Honor:
 - Of Faith!
 - "Ye Are Clean!"
 - And - You Are Clean:
 - In A Way That:
 - No Water On Earth:
 - Can Clean You!
 - And Even Though:
 - You Will Still Need To:
 - Have Your Feet Washed:
 - From Time To Time!
 - To Remove / To Recover / To Refresh!
 - "Ye Are Clean!"
 - When You Receive The Lord On His Terms:
 - And Not Your Own!

Conclusion:

1. But - Jesus Ends His Words:
 - In These Verses:
 - With A Challenge Of His Own!

- Because - There Was One Exception:
 - To Those Who Were Clean!
 - Again - 13:10 - Jesus Said:
 - “Ye Are Clean, But Not All!”
- 2. Of Course - We Know:
 - That Jesus Was Speaking:
 - About Judas!
 - And John Adds In 13:11:
 - “For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean!”
- 3. But - Even This Exception:
 - Proved His Point!
 - Though Jesus Would Go About:
 - To Wash His Feet As Well!
 - He Was Not:
 - Truly Clean!
- 4. And - This Leaves Us:
 - With An Open Question!
 - Are You Clean?
 - Have You Been Washed By The Lord?
 - With His Hands?
 - And - In Your Heart?
 - When You Have A True Heart For The Lord:
 - That Is Humble Before Him!
 - That Will Honor Him!
 - And - That Is Hungry For Him!
 - You Will Accept Whatever You Receive:
 - From The Hands Of The Lord!

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