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Lent: Unless I Wash You

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Lent: Unless I Wash You

Abstract

"In this passage, the Savior of the world was on death row and instead of requesting his favorite meal, Jesus got down on his knees and washed the dirty feet of his sinful followers."

Posting about Jesus' servant heart from *In All Things* - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

<http://inallthings.org/lent-unless-i-wash-you/>

Keywords

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Disciplines

Christianity

Comments

In All Things is a publication of the [Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College](#).

Lent: Unless I Wash You

 inallthings.org/lent-unless-i-wash-you/

Tara Boer

This is post #3 of 8 in the series “*Lenten Reflections*”

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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” John 13:5-8

Jesus was a good guy wasn’t he? He’s everything we’ve ever wanted in a leader, king, friend, and father. Every word and deed was filled with a message. He worked hard to ensure his followers embraced values that would foster purpose and goodness.

In this passage, the Savior of the world was on death row and instead of requesting his favorite meal, Jesus got down on his knees and washed the dirty feet of his sinful followers.

The Message: *Be Humble*

Some of the most influential people I’ve ever met are those who fully embrace their brokenness and inadequacies as well as God’s incredible grace for them. They claim the dysfunction in their lives knowing full well that God is doing a good work in them. I personally don’t care to bond or commune with people who think they have it all together. Homes are hard to keep clean, marriage is difficult sometimes, kids are naughty, loss is hard, relationships can be messy and we have personal struggles. We’re not in heaven yet so there’s really no need to act like we have this all together.

The disciples were washed clean by their master and then had the privilege of bearing witness to the cleansing process in others.

The Message: *You are free so that others can be*

This is not about you or anything you have done or could do. This is about what Jesus has already done for you and what he is going to do through you.

How beautiful would it be if we lived in true safety and real fellowship with each other? What if we boldly embraced our hurts and hang-ups? I can’t help but think how strong and solid the body of believers would be if we were consistently a people of transparency and trust.

In this passage Jesus says “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

The Message: *Trust me*

Trust that Jesus is big enough. Trust that he’s capable of healing, cleansing, transforming, and saving.

Trust that he is good even when all is silent. Trust that Jesus makes beautiful things out of our mess. Are you letting Jesus wash your feet? Are you so genuine and transparent that people feel safe enough to allow you to witness their pain? Ask Jesus to give you the courage to make yourself truly known by others. Understand that your brokenness and willingness to let others see it is not only incredibly attractive to unbelievers, but is to fellow Christians as well. *Jesus, I will surrender my ugliness and shortcomings to you. I will invite others to bear witness to my pain and feel privileged that you still allow me to be a part of the salvation plan for others. Amen.*