

DOES FOOT WASHING INDICATE ACCEPTANCE?

Doy Moyer

Much has been made over the recent “He gets us” ads depicting various scenes of different kinds of people washing their feet and having their feet washed. The debate is over what this means. Is it a good illustration of what Jesus would do? Does it accurately convey who Jesus is or what He wants from followers? Whatever your conclusion, I hope all could agree that it is, at best, an incomplete picture. I can appreciate what it may be trying to do, though I wonder what else is happening.

I suspect that what lies behind much of this is the idea of acceptance. If we aren’t careful, we may conflate those who may be poor with those whose actions, lifestyles, and religions run contrary to Scripture. Yet I have no problem with the notion of Jesus washing the feet of those who would act contrary to His will. After all, He did die for them (which is greater than washing feet), and, as is often pointed out, He washed Judas’ feet, knowing that Judas would betray Him. Yet here is precisely where we need to be careful. While Jesus washed Judas’ feet, His actions did not convey acceptance of how Judas would act. Washing feet was not a sign that condoned bad behavior of those whom He washed.

In the same passage in which Jesus washed Judas’ feet, He also said, *“Not all of you are clean”* (John 13:11). He wanted the disciples to learn to act this way toward one another. Still, Jesus was clear about the situation with Judas: *“He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me”* (18), and *“one of you will betray me”* (21). Later, in His prayer for the disciples, Jesus referred to him as the *“son of destruction”* (12). He washed his feet, but He didn’t condone the betrayal. He washed Peter’s feet, but didn’t condone his denials.

If the message of washing feet is not about acceptance, I wonder how some would react if the depictions included washing the feet of Hitler or a hooded Klansman. No doubt, that would be considered going too far for many. Yet Jesus died for those whose actions are abhorrent and evil, too, and no one should accept their behavior. The point is that in Scripture, foot-washing, while an act of humble service, is not meant to convey acceptance of one’s actions that are contrary to His teachings. We can show love and serve others without condoning sinful behavior.

– Continued on page 3 –

DELETE IF NOT ALLOWED

Bryan Matthew Dockens

It’s cringeworthy every time it’s seen online. Some user in a group on a social media platform will begin a post by saying, “Delete if not allowed.”

Naturally, the administrators of the group would delete the post if it violates the group rules, so it’s pointless to invite them to do exactly what they are expected to do. A post violating group rules will not remain up just because it is not prefaced with “Delete if not allowed!”

What’s worse is the laziness of it. To type “Delete if not allowed” necessarily implies the poster knows there are group rules and is not willing to pause and read them before posting. The user would rather waste the time of group admins, who are almost always doing what they do voluntarily and without compensation.

This behavior is merely a slight aggravation on the internet, but it indicates a mindset that can bring about eternal ramifications. God has set forth in Scripture His expectations for human behavior, but the majority are unwilling to familiarize themselves with His will. They disregard any notion that they are responsible for learning the rules, do what they want to do anyway, and figure God, the great admin in the sky, will deal with the problem, shrugging off any notion that they are offending Him in the process.

The Almighty does not take it so lightly, though. Through the prophet Hosea, He told Israel, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you”* (Hosea 4:6). Ignorance is not bliss. Nor is it an excuse. Ignorance is a fault to overcome. Paul preached, *“These times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17:30).

– Continued from page 2 –

Jesus’ actions and words of love were accompanied by a message of repentance: *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel”* (Mark 1:15). No efforts to reach the world can be complete without this. So yes, go ahead and wash the feet of whoever is in need. Yet, I do not think that this action is, in itself, a full enough presentation of the gospel message. People need the greater cleansing that can only come through the blood of Jesus, and this message is integrally tied to a message of repentance.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Eve found the serpent more trustworthy than God, not because of his credentials, but because the serpent said what Eve wanted to hear."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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IN HELL, I'LL BE IN GOOD COMPANY

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The Dead South have 397 million views on YouTube for their song "In Hell, I'll Be in Good Company." It's a catchy tune, but the title itself is horrifying and seems to reflect an increasingly popular sentiment. Those who *"walk according to the flesh"* are convincing themselves the companionship of likeminded heathens is preferable in eternity over the fellowship of God and the saints who lived uprightly upon the earth. They assume the people they're having fun with now will continue to be fun hereafter. No thought could be more misguided.

Those suffering torment in Hades only want two things:

1. The slightest relief from their anguish, and
2. That their loved ones be spared from ever joining them.

Jesus told of a rich man who died and was sent to punishment and a beggar named Lazarus who died and was sent to comfort (Luke 16:19-23). The rich man *"cried out,"* begging, *"have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame"* (24), but his plea was rejected and he was told his situation was final and unchangeable (25-26). Knowing that, he made his second request: *"send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment"* (27-28).

Those burning now for their sins absolutely do not want to see their loved ones suffer the same punishment.

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