

John 13:17 – 38

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~ The Lord Jesus Christ washed the feet of His disciples in the upper room in our last report from of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. They had been traveling all day; and traveling on foot in Israel left their feet pretty dirty, as you can imagine. If they were to have fellowship with Jesus at a meal, their feet had to be washed. If Jesus didn't wash them, they would have no place at His table. You and I cannot have part with God in fellowship until we are cleansed of the sins in our life by the Word of God. To "have part" with Him means to be washed in the Word of God; and that's the only way and the only place to have fellowship with God. Jesus said that Mary "had chosen that good part" - and that meant she had taken her place of learning at His feet....

2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? ~

Until the Lord Jesus washes our feet from the filth we contract every day as we walk the dusty and dirty roads in this world, we have no fellowship with Him, my beloved. Spiritually speaking, references to the feet speak of our walk down here. Our walk must be in Christ's Hands, which means we must be completely yielded to the will of God according to the Word of God. The idea that confession of sin is some insignificant aspect of prayer is woefully mistaken. If we confess our sins He is just and faithful to forgive; but that means we must confess in order to receive that forgiveness. This is not salvation, though. To be washed in the Word of God means to pray as the Psalmist did, "... search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of life everlasting."

Almost all of us fail to adequately recognize the depths of our depravity and that we are sinners of the worst kind. When is the last time you were disobedient to the commandments of God? When is the last time you knew

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to do good but chose not to do it? Why don't you esteem others better than yourself and consider the welfare of others above your own? Why aren't you giving every thought and deed to the Lord in prayer in submission for correction and for reproof? That is all sin, my friend. We must realize our need for cleansing and obtain that cleansing by laying hold of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God through prayer as we ever-grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord.

Simon Peter was a very impulsive man - and he told Jesus to wash his hands and head, too; after telling Jesus He wasn't going to wash him in the first place. Peter went from one extreme to the other in just two short sentences. Peter was warm-hearted, but dull-minded. He just didn't get it at this time. Jesus made it clear that when we come to Him for salvation and after we have been cleansed, then all we need is a daily foot washing before we eat. We need this when we sin; and neither reader nor writer of this safari go through one day without sinning. David asked forgiveness for his trespasses and sin that he said were ".... ever before me" ~

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

~ Psalm forty-one verse nine is quoted and it refers to Judas. This does NOT mean Judas lost his spiritual life; it reveals he never had a spiritual life to begin with. That makes all the difference in the world, and it answers the question of whether or not we can lose our salvation. Sheep will not get down in a pigpen; but pigs return to wallowing in mire again and again. God also likens it unto a dog that has returned to its own vomit. That's a putrid picture of Judas Iscariot; and yet he is present in and part of the Scriptural scene in the upper room. Quite frankly, I think Simon Peter relented and allowed Jesus to wash his feet, but Judas insistently said no when it was his turn.

The "blood" of Christ points God-ward in the continual cleansing of our trespasses and sins according to His presentation of the sacrifice in the Bible; and "water" points symbolically to washing. The blood is for the expiation of our sins and water is for our moral purification. Christ's blood cancelled my negative balance of sin debt. The blood gives me standing before God and has blotted out the red debt from the negative figures of my transgressions. The blood of Christ is the only reason my sins are not counted against me today. See, the blood isn't "applied to your heart," friends. The blood is exclusively for penal expiation; and the water of the Word of God is what is used for moral purification. I think it's important that we recognize that truth and understand it....

19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

22 Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake.

25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?

26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

~ Judas was very clever. Everyone looked at each other with suspicion in verse twenty-two. They all knew they could have been the one to betray Jesus - but would never have admitted to it openly, and they all knew any of the others could have been the one, too. I have the feeling few of them noticed Simon Peter 'beckon' Jesus and ask Him the question he did. And that leaves Judas Iscariot STILL at a crossroads. The 'sop' was a sort of token of friendship. The Lord Jesus kept the door open for Judas all the way to the garden of Gethsemane when Jesus says to Judas, "friend, wherefore art thou come?" All the way to the very end the door was kept open for Judas to turn back to Jesus. Even after the arrest of Jesus, Judas could have fallen down at His feet and said, ".... Jesus, forgive me," - and it would have been done. Now, Jesus knew what Judas would and would not do, but foreknowledge is not causation; just because the Lord knew about it means neither the Lord forced Judas to act nor approved of said actions. God doesn't interfere with our free-will, friends. That's on you....

27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

~ Judas has totally rejected Christ at this point by his decisions and will go out now from His presence. God never sent a man to hell; man sends himself to hell by a willful refusal to believe and walking away willfully, my beloved. When a man decides to reject Christ, then, God says likewise. We see Judas moving hurriedly out into the dark now. Judas, having made his decision, is still not beyond God's control, though. Judas is compelled to cooperate with God by virtue of having made this decision. See, irrespective of whether one is lost or saved, they are going to glorify Christ. One way - or another.

Judas then let's the religious rulers know that he had been found out and his plans had been exposed. Judas tells them they better act now, or Jesus will likely flee the area again. Of course, that was not true - because Jesus had come to Jerusalem to die - and had told the apostles that repeatedly. Personally, I feel as if Judas was the only one in the group who had really caught the message of the cross and understood what it meant prior to this time in the account. I also feel he was lying intentionally to hasten what he

was doing - as Jesus had commanded him to "do it quickly." Judas didn't even realize that his lying was causing him to obey a command from God. God didn't command Judas to lie - but God used that sin to His glory for His plan and purpose. He always does. Think all of that through to its final conclusion and apply it to past experiences in your own life and see what terrifying conclusions you come up with. Interestingly, even at this late hour, none of the others even mildly suspect Judas....

28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him.

29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.

30 He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

~ Judas steals away into the blackness of darkness forever. This is that night, for Judas, that followed the devils day; now the sun won't be coming up again for this man. The devils day always ends in Egyptian darkness. That's the reason Broadway and Hollywood Boulevard have so many lights. The way of Satan has to be lit up, my friends; and it must be lit because it consists of total and complete darkness. Sin is knocking at the door demanding its pound of flesh as we enter another altogether new section of Scripture. The shadow of the cross has fallen over this little group in the upper room and, quite frankly, they're frightened. So, the Lord Jesus will now lift these men from the low plane of mundane natural awareness to the high plane of succinct spiritual discernment. We're going from the here and now to the hereafter with Jesus. We're leaving behind the material and moving into the eternal where the things that are secular turn into that which is spiritual. As we move along, we'll see the interruption of the Lord Jesus that will carry us right into chapter fourteen. Actually, I feel chapter fourteen should begin here....

31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him.

~ Our Spiritual Safari has now entered the full spiritual realm with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of man is going to be glorified, friends, you can just write that down. Christ was glorified in His death and resurrection. And now that we have reached this spiritual place with the apostles, the Lord Jesus is going to speak to them sweetly and tenderly, as to His Own little children. As His children, we are to love one another. This is NOT the commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself, though - which is altogether different. The "self" part is omitted altogether here. Some of us don't love ourselves very much, you see, because we're told not to, you will recall. This is another deep paradoxical truth in the form of an injunction to love NOT everyone – not every neighbor – but your brothers in Christ are we to love as Christ loved us. So many people have this principle tangled in their mind and are hopelessly confused as a result. The best one can hope for when they misunderstand this teaching is a life of doubt, distrust of and drifting away from God.

Unfortunately, some people today interpret this as "... by this all men shall know that ye are My disciples: if ye are fundamental in the faith." Well, that's not how the Bible reads. Now, don't get me wrong, I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture and the verbal plenary inspiration of the Word of God separately and as a whole; I believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection for the expiation of sin; I believe His death was a substitutionary and vicarious death for the sins of the world. I maintain that Jesus ascended bodily into Heaven and He is returning someday to call His church into the air and out of the world. So, read this very, very carefully, friends: a belief in these things do NOTHING to convince a lost and unsaved world outside of anything.

The idea that our beliefs will rub off on other people just because we believe them while we live like the devils children is a fool's losing philosophy. The result is what we have today: mean and gossiping, hateful, evil people with hard hearts calling themselves Christians and – let me tell you – THAT is the reason the lost man on the outside has stopped turning

to God today and refuses to go to church. That's why I am trying to point out in our safari that those people are just not really believers. I don't judge hearts, but I don't see any fruits in their lives – all I see are thistles. The number of actual converts to Christianity amongst the multitudes who claim to know Jesus is so low it would frighten you. Most of them today are as phony as a three-dollar bill....

33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

~ Tertullian documented the Roman government's displeasure with the Catholic Church as the church experienced growth beyond imagination - and yet the pope wouldn't even offer a pinch of incense before the emperor's image. So, the church was accused of being disloyal. The spies went in, and their report went something like this: 'Christians are very strange people. They meet together in an empty room to worship Jesus, who is absent, but they speak of Him as if He is there amongst them and as if He is God. They also expect Him at any time to return. Interestingly, they love one another very much.' End of Quote. What about YOUR church, my dear safari readers? What about YOU, personally? Would you get the same report? ~

36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

~ The Lord Jesus treats Simon Peter somewhat juvenile here. My personal observation and evaluation is that Simon Peter did not ever reach the age of maturation and spiritual discernment until the Day of Pentecost. We see Peter acting childishly again and again; perpetually blundering - and always

asking the questions that only a child would ask. Peter didn't hear Jesus say love one another, but he sure heard Jesus say he was going away somewhere. When a parent leaves a child, the first question the child asks is: where are you going? The second statement is always, "... I want to go with you." Peter has seized on the word "now." That's the word a child would isolate. Well, Simon Peter was a fisherman – not a seminary scholar. Simon Peter was sincere when he made this statement. The problem was, Peter didn't realize his insufficiency....

37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice ~

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