

Series: Psalms

Title: Happy Are Ye, If

Text: John 13: 1-17

Date: April 10, 2022

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

John 13: 1: Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. 2: And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3: Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; 4: He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5: After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. 6: Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7: Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8: Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9: Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head. 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, but not all. 11: For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12: So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13: Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for *so* I am. 14: If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16: Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Every believer—chosen, redeemed and regenerated by the grace of God—wants to do the will of God. Our heart is to please God and honor God. We desire to give Christ all the glory. The love of Christ constrains us to love and help our brethren and to see needy lost sinners brought to faith in Christ.

1 John 1: 3: And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

So where does the believer look? Who teaches us how to love one another? We look to Christ alone! Our Redeemer said, in verse 15, "*I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*" We learn everything looking to Christ, by his Spirit working in our hearts. The love of God is everlasting to those our Father chose in Christ from eternity. Therefore our Lord Jesus, v1, "*having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*" How does the Lord Jesus love his own?

BY TAKING THE LOWEST POSITION

John 13: 2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3: Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; 4: He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5: After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.

In those days, in that land, they traveled in sandals. So washing another's feet was customary. But it was usually performed by the lowliest of servants in the house.

The Lord Jesus is God. Knowing himself to be God Almighty he humbled himself to the feet of his disciples. "*Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God. He arose from supper and laid aside his garments and took a towel, and girded himself.*" The Son of God arose from his throne in glory and laid aside his outer garments. He veiled his glory and humbled himself and became a Man and washed his people from our sins.

Philippians 2: 5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took

upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

“He poureth water into a bason.” The righteous, sinless GodMan poured out his precious blood on the cross to wash his people from our sins, to justify us. Life is in the blood and without shedding of blood is no remission of sins. Christ our Redeemer poured out his own life’s blood for those he loved.

Revelation 1:5...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood...

The water from his wounded side declares Christ is our Sanctification, as well as his blood declaring he is our Justification. It is by Christ washing us in regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost through his precious blood. It is by washing us by the water of the word that we are sanctified and made holy. He is that fountain.

Zechariah 13:1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

John says, *“and [he] began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded”* (v5). Through faith in his blood, God robes us in Christ’s righteousness. He shods our feet with the preparation of the gospel.

Then from his throne in glory, he teaches us who he is and what he has done for us, verse 12, *“So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?”* After Christ finished the work of redemption he arose from the dead, took on his glorious garments and sat down at God’s right hand.

Hebrews 1:3...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Right now, through the preaching of the gospel, he teaches his own what he has done to you—*“know ye what I have done to you?”*

WHY WE NEED CHRIST TO TEACH US

John 13: 6: Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

We understand why Peter protested. This was his Lord and his Master. Washing feet was the task of the lowliest servant; Peter saw this beneath his Lord. But the devil wanted Peter to resist the Lord washing him. The devil appeals to our pride and it does not take much.

Still, the Lord is so longsuffering with his own, verse 7, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”* Peter did not know the meaning; he did not know what Christ was teaching him by this. We know nothing except our Lord teach us in spirit by his word.

We ought to keep this word of our Lord always in remembrance. This is so of most everything the Lord does for us, *“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”* In every trial and sorrow, remember these words—*“What the Lord is doing thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”* The Lord does not *try* to instruct his people. He never fails to make us learn what he is teaching—*“THOU SHALT know hereafter.”*

But like Peter we are slow to hear and learn. Therefore, we need Christ to teach us over and over, verse 8, *“Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”* Christ is not only teaching us humility and love, but he is also teaching us the necessity of Christ washing us. Christ must wash us and Christ alone—he must receive all the glory for washing us. The Lord said, *“If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”* He is saying that if he had not washed Peter with the washing of regeneration by the Spirit and by his blood then Peter, nor any of his elect, would have a part with Christ. Christ must wash thee from ALL thy sins. If not, *“Thou hast no part with me”*: no communion with the Lord in this world, no inheritance with Christ in the world to come. But God's elect

have a part with Christ through eternal, electing, covenant grace by Christ washing us with his blood with the washing of regeneration through the word of his gospel.

Only Christ can wash a sinner clean. It is not our works that wash us or any other. It is not baptism that washes away our sins or any other. Christ must wash us—and Christ alone—or we have no part with him. He uses us to speak the gospel. And Christ blesses that word to our brethren. And we forgive and bear one another's sins. That is how we wash one another's feet. But it is Christ who gets the glory for washing each of his people.

Yet, the child that Christ washes is clean, verse 9-10, "*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.*" The Lord Jesus has washed his people every whit by his finished work on the cross. Not all are his—Judah was not—Christ did not wash any of the non-elect. But God's elect, Christ washed every whit by his blood on the cross.

When the Lord creates a new man within then the new man is clean every whit. The new man is holy. Our new man is created in the righteousness and true holiness of Christ. We are born of incorruptible seed, the Word of God through which the gospel is preached to us. Therefore new man is incorruptible—"ye are clean!"

Psalm 32:1: *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.* 2: *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

But walking through this world our feet become defiled, dirty. So Christ continues to wash our feet. He cleanses us within to keep us coming to him, to keep us confessing our sins to him, to keep us asking mercy and forgiveness for his name's sake. He keeps us believing Christ for all. The Lord taught us to pray, "[Father] forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"; "Forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us" (Mt 6:12; Lu 11: 4).

David was righteous and holy but he sinned. Yet, the Lord washed him and drew him to ask the Lord to wash him and forgive him. David prayed,

Psalm 51: 1: *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.* 2: *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.* 3: *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*

Psalm 25:11 *For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great...18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.*

Our Lord keeps us knowing he is our one Advocate with the Father. Christ is our one Righteousness with God. He keeps his child knowing that by his name. For the sake of Christ our Righteousness, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all iniquity.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John 13: 13: Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14: If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16: Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

They never called the Lord, "Jesus." We do not call our father or mother by their first name. Out of reverence they called Christ their Lord and Master. No of us is greater than our Lord and Master. He said, "*If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*"

He came down from his throne in glory, he humbled himself and served us. Let us humble ourselves and serve one another. With the pain of the cross before him, having loved his own he loved us to the end. With trials and burdens before us or upon us, let nothing stop us from loving one another. He loved us when we

were his enemies—and he loves his own unto the end. Despite our sinful failures, even knowing his disciple’s sins right there that night, and knowing what they would do in the days ahead, he loved them unto the end. Let us do the same for our brethren.

But what if our brother has sinned? Christ has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God’s holy law for his people—for each of our brethren. He justified us before God, regenerated us and made us every whit clean. God remembers our sins no more. Therefore, Christ teaches us to receive one another without doubting and disputing. He teaches us to trust one another to Christ our Master. Our brethren are “his own.” Therefore, loving our brethren we love “his own.” Knowing Christ continues to wash us, let us cover one another’s sins. That means let us bear with one another when we sin. When Christ grants repentance let us forgive and point one another to Christ our Righteousness. He forgives us so let us forgive one another even as God has forgiven us for his sake. If a brother asks for mercy and forgiveness, tell him right then you forgive him. Make him know it. That is what Christ does the moment he draws us to him.

This is also important. When brethren are trying to serve us, do not object as Peter did. Our pride gets in the way of even letting our brethren love us and serve us.

Grudges and bitterness make us miserable. It hurts us the worst. But to obey Christ, to forgive one another even as Christ has forgiven us, to wash one another’s feet in love and mercy, this is true happiness. Verse 17 *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”*

Amen!