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## Dirty Feet

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John 13:1-17

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. John 13:1-5 (NLT)

## Confidence and Humility Meet in Jesus

### Jesus Comes to Us in Our Dirt and Filth

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:6, 8 (NLT)

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" John 13:6-9 (NLT)

## Washing Our Feet Creates Belonging

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." John 13:10-11 (NLT)

## Jesus Doesn't Withhold from Those Who Reject Him

Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:7-8 (NLT)

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:12-17 (NLT)

## Those Who Belong Do the Same

### From Dirty Feet to Beautiful Feet

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

## Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup\*

Share about a time when you were asked to do a demeaning, lowly job. What were you thinking and feeling?

Have three readers read John 13:1-17- reading the roles of a Narrator, Jesus and Peter.

Verse 1 tells us Jesus' motivation and intent. What is remarkable about it to you?

If you had been there, how might you have felt as Jesus got to you? What would you have said and done?

Why did Peter refuse to cooperate? What spiritual truth was Jesus trying to communicate to him?

Jesus calls us to do likewise. What would be some modern-day examples of "foot washing level" acts of sacrificial love you could undertake?

\*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at [len@marinerscc.org](mailto:len@marinerscc.org)