

Homily I

Lord, you're going to wash my feet? (John 13:6)

Prayer: Lord, as we open ourselves to you, the Word, would you prepare us for that moment of self-disclosure? Where we are led to open the deepest parts of our being and let you inside to clean us all up? Come Holy Spirit, enter this room, enter our midst and apply the Word to our lives. AMEN

“When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” John 13:6

- **Have you ever been somewhere, a classroom, a meeting, a group**
- **In which the leader was going around and you knew your turn to participate was coming?**
- **That evening in the Upper Room?**
- **Jesus was going around the room—like never before...**
- **He wasn't leaving anyone out—everyone was part of what Jesus was doing, whether you wanted to be or not**
- **It almost seems unlike Jesus—putting people on the spot**
- **But this is not just any ole spot...this is a new experience with Jesus**
- **He is the servant—and his disciples are being served**
- **Peter watches—perhaps Jesus starts with John, first to his right and after 11 pairs of feet**

He comes to Peter

- **Peter has tried everything he could think of to get ahead of Jesus on this one**
 - a. **Sneak out and find the ‘real servant’ and order him back**
 - b. **Sign out and fane a sudden stomach ailment**
 - c. **Check out and just be gone when Jesus got to where he was**
- **None of this had worked, Jesus kept going to the table near the door**
- **Speaking to the disciples, making eye contact with each one**
- **Progressively praying perhaps for each one, all the while making it clear**
- **He was coming “your way” and looked forward to washing “your feet”**
- **Peter felt trapped, cornered, surprised, and very uncomfortable with Jesus being so open and subordinate as a servant should be**

- **It was a dimension of Jesus, Peter had only seen glimpses of**
- **Now, it was full-on and Peter was not in control and he didn't like it one bit**
- **How about you and me?**
- **When we wash each other's feet—does it feel kind of weird to take someone's feet and hold them in your hands?**
- **Do you feel vulnerable (exposed) having someone wash your feet?**
- **It's what Jesus intended—cause it's all about getting clean, whole and holy before him**
- **Jesus responded to Peter's question and said in John 13:7**

“You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

- **Each of those disciples except Judas would understand one day**
- **Day upon day in the Upper Room, they were together in one place, constantly united in prayer**
- **And they would turned to each other and without any embarrassment would offer to wash each other's feet**
- **They were understanding now—coming together in oneness**
- **This washing of feet puts everyone on the same page with God**
- **Hearts opened, hearts and lives surrendered**
- **James would urge later when he wrote, “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (5.16)**
- **Before we wash each other's feet—pause and pray for the person whose feet you're washing**
- **Empty your own heart of sin, lay down your burden and become restored in your souls**
- **When you wash feet, imagine you're Jesus' hands, Jesus' knees bending, Jesus' forearms working to dry the feet of your friend, spouse, or child**
- **“Lord?” Peter emphatically replied, “you're going to wash my feet?”**
- **Jesus looked into Peter's eyes with assurance said, “Yes, I am...and in doing so, I am washing all of you, Peter.”**
- **We, here at Valley practice open Communion**
- **That is to say, we want you, if you are visiting, to wash feet, and partake with us.**

- **As Christians, as Seventh-day Adventist, we consider everyone someone Jesus came to save.**
- **Ladies will participate in foot washing going right out these back doors and to the fourth and fifth doors on the left**
- **Men will participate in foot washing going also to the right out these back doors and to the second door on the left**
- **Our families, couples and friends will participate in foot washing out these back doors to the left and in the Fellowship Hall**
- **For those who came today with Children who you would like to learn more of the foot washing service, our story will be told for the children during foot washing right here by the organ**
- **For those who desire to remain here, we respect that and invite you to remain where you are seated as we will return for the ordinance of the Lord's Supper following foot washing.**

Prayer – Lord, amazing is your love, your servant leadership that would cause you to model to us the role of cleansing, of confession in getting our feet cleaned, so that it might symbolize our soul's being cleaned before you. Thank you for foot washing, so we might humble ourselves like you Jesus. AMEN