

Jesus washes his Disciples Feet John 13 v 1-17

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (NIV)

Question

If Jesus died to forgive all of our sins both past and future, then why do we still need confession?

Confession

There were four priests that like gardening, and one day met up in one of their allotment sheds. One priest said "our parishioners tells us about the things they have done wrong, and it does them good to confess, we should do the same, and confess to each other. They all agreed. The first said, that whilst he encouraged people to give up smoking, that he had a pack of Cuban cigars in his shed that he loved to smoke when he was on his own. The second said that he encouraged people not to gamble, but he always bought a lottery ticket and went to his shed to check the results. The third priest said that whilst he encouraged his flock not to lust after others, he had a poster of a scantily clad Kylie Minogue pinned up in his shed. They looked at the fourth priest that had kept quiet, and encouraged him to open up "What is your secret sin". He was red-faced but then gave in " OK. I'll tell you. I am a shameless and prolific gossip, prepared to say anything behind anyone's back, and I just can't **wait** to get out of this shed !!"

When looking at a series on how big and how Great Jesus was, I prayed where do I go next with this and I felt the Lord say, if you want to show them how great I am, show them me washing my disciples feet. That wasn't what I was expecting. It is clearly a passage about humility, but as we look into it we can see it really is a picture of His greatness. Less obviously, it is also a lesson on the need for confession.

So to unpack these things we will study the opening verses of John chapter 13.

The Last Day Timeline

We have already arrived in Holy week. Jesus had entered Jerusalem on Sunday. Up on the donkey, palm leaves out, crowds cheering. A great day for the disciples and all the followers of Jesus. A worrying day for the High priest Caiaphas who set about busily plotting the murder of Jesus.

4 days later, on the Thursday, Jesus sends the disciples out to find a man carrying a water jug on his head, which was rare, as women did that job. They were to follow the man into the house and ask for the upper room where they will have the Passover. Now they would normally celebrate Passover on the Friday, but Jesus was not able to wait another day. So he started the meal on the Thursday. However the meal and lengthy teaching that went with it (which is covered in 5 whole chapters of John's Gospel) would have gone

into the Friday. Why? Because the Jewish day started at Sunset, so we'll say at about 6pm we are already into Good Friday.

So they gather on Thursday afternoon, share the Passover meal, share some teaching, sing some Psalms, and then after dark they parade out the North gate down the Kidron Valley towards the Mount of Olives, and stop to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and are there until very late, probably til 2am, when Judas turns up with a large mob, and Jesus is arrested. He has his mock trial in the small hours, and is falsely accused of blasphemy. Then Pilate was gotten out of bed early to deal with the matter and at day-break (about 6am) Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified. He is mocked and tortured and led out to be crucified at 9am (the third hour of day). This all happens when most of Jesus's supporters were fast asleep and couldn't make trouble. Three hours later at Noon (the 6th hour), the sky goes black and is still black 3 hours later when Jesus cries out and dies. This is 3pm (the 9th hour).

So if we assume that Jesus and his disciples gather round the table about 3pm on the Thursday, then what we are looking at is the start of the last 24 hour period of Jesus' life. After which everything that Jesus came to do has been accomplished.

Popular opinion is that the writer of John's Gospel, is the apostle John, who is writing his account as an old man, about 60 years after the death of Jesus, but this 24 hour period, is a defining day in his life, perhaps the defining day. Perhaps he has recalled it so many times during his life, that he can still remember every detail as if it were yesterday, but John also tells us (John 14v26) how he can remember all these words. Jesus said **“ the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”**

The other Gospel writers focus on him breaking the bread and the wine, the practice adopted by the early church that we call 'the communion'. John knows that this is already well covered in the other 3 gospels and was common practice amongst the early church, so instead focuses on the last teachings of Jesus to his disciples during this last meal together. They are the words of a man that is about to die. It is the longest recorded conversation (or discourse) of Jesus in any gospel, and takes up 5 whole chapters of John, starting at Chapter 13.

V1a. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

Up to this point, he would frequently say, my hour has not yet come. However Jesus, the lamb of God, was about to be slain for the sake of the world. Now, as they gather for the Last Supper, his hour had come. This was it, the last 24 hours of his Human life.

As far as we know, the other Passover's that he attended, he was a guest at the table, and this was the only time where we see Jesus as 'Head of the Company', leading the Passover and offering up the lamb. This was his first and his last, and one which would lead later that day to offering up his own body as the sacrificial Passover lamb. This would also be a one off. The once and for all sacrifice for our sins, and one that brings to an end the need for God to receive any further animal sacrifices.

Jesus knew well what was about to happen. Luke records Jesus as saying (Luke 22v 15) I have wanted so much to share this Passover meal with you before I suffer.

Imagine being with friends and family for the last time. You know that 24 hours later you will be dead. What are your emotions? What are your priorities? One thing for sure, is you will tell them you love them, at least once. Then there's all that stuff you wanted to say but had remained unsaid up until now. Whatever you have to say, you say now. The next priority is to forgive and forget any differences or disappointment of the past and focus on the moment, to enjoy your last day in the presence of those you enjoy most. I have just lost a friend I have had since I was 12 years old. He died quite suddenly. I wish I just had one more day to tell him how much I had appreciated all the great times that we had together growing up.

His Own

V1b. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end.

It was common to have teaching at meal times, and Jesus uses this last meal for his last words of teaching for his close disciples. He starts with how much he loved them, those that were his own.

Over the three years, many others had expressed their commitment to Jesus and followed him round, some that were better educated, better off and better able. But he never gave up on his first disciples, a rag tag bunch, with its tax collector, freedom fighter and fishermen. These are his own. He loved them to the fullest extent; agape, a love of choice and commitment. Their greatest need was their salvation, which was only possible by him dying. Even though he knew they would run and betray him, it didn't matter, he called them his own and he loved them. He had great hopes for them, even though they were messed up for a bit.

In the same way, Jesus now has a people in this world that he calls his own. Those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Saviour, are now 'His own'. He treats us with a greater love than you treat your own children, a love that will never let go. Nothing can separate a believer from the love of Christ. As Paul put it so beautifully in his letter to the Romans (8v38-39) **³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Those who Christ loves, he loves to the end. For his disciples, in loving them to the end, meant his own end, he loved them enough to die for them. Because his love goes on beyond his death, almost uninterrupted. He carries on loving his disciples throughout their lives and then as they 'pass over' from the fragile life we live on this earth to the strong and stable kingdom of God in heaven.

But there was one who had been with Jesus but had not been taken in by his love.

V2 The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, .. the thought of betraying Jesus

Jesus knew that Judas had not fully accepted him and his teachings as all the others had. Yet right up to this last moment he showed Judas no less love than the others. He loved them as a group, and trusted Judas with the treasurer's job even though he is suspected of having taken out money for himself. He had his own agenda to bring down the Romans and he thought this could be achieved by forcing the hand of Jesus against Rome. To do this he had to betray Jesus. John makes it clear in his Gospel that this was not a noble thought gone wrong, but an evil seed of an idea planted by the Devil in his heart. Jesus had kept him close and honoured him with the others, even giving him the place of honour at this Last Supper meal. He had kept him close, but now was the time to let him go and act out his destiny of betraying Jesus into the hands of the High Priest.

Judas followed Jesus and called him Lord, but he thought that he was right and Jesus was wrong. Not everyone that says 'Lord Lord' will be saved. The famous Jesse James, got baptised in Church, and on the same day he killed a man in a train robbery. 3 months later he kills 2 people in a bank robbery and that is the first Sunday where he sings in the church choir.

^{v3} Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God.

Jesus knew what was coming, what he would achieve on the cross. He now knew where he stood as the Lord of the Universe. He knew his origin and his destiny. As John had claimed for him in Chapter 1. He was God. He always existed. All creation came through him. All light and life, both spiritual and physical came through Jesus. He was comfortable in his greatness. He was Lord of all. Having that settled, this allowed him to simply serve and do the humblest of jobs. He was absolutely secure in who he was, and because he was so secure he did not have to pursue any self-interest, or seek praise for his good deeds to make him feel good. He never said, Look how much I do for you guys! This positivity in his own self-worth sets an example for us on how to behave. Self-assured and confident of his own greatness he comes to the table for the Passover meal.

The Table

I heard this joke where the carpenter rabbi rings up a restaurant and says 'The name is Jesus, and I would like to book a table for 26 please.' The receptionist said I thought you had just the 12 disciples, and Jesus replied "Yes that is true, but we all like to sit on the same side !"

We get that image from Leonardo da Vinci famous painting of the Last Supper, where they are all sat on one side of a raised table with Jesus in the middle commanding the most space and with 6 disciples to his left and 6 disciples to his right. It was nothing like that.

The long tables used were very low almost at floor level. You would sit on a big cushion or pillow and lean on your left arm, and eat with your right hand off the table. When you weren't eating you could rest your head on the chest of the person on your left. You would be leaning in towards the table, so your feet would be off the cushion, pointing diagonally outwards. Reclining on each other this meant that you could talk easily with one another, and the table was narrow enough to have a quiet conversation with the person opposite.

John is invited to sit to the right of Jesus from where he can lean back onto the chest of his Master, which no doubt pleased him a lot. Judas had been invited to the place of honour at the table, which was on the left of Jesus so has the privilege and intimacy of Jesus reclining on him. Peter had positioned himself right at the end of the horseshoe formation, but it did mean that he could be opposite John and still close to Jesus.

The cup and ritual washing

V4-5 So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

The Passover meal always began with the Head of the Company, in this case Jesus, taking the first cup of wine, and speaking over it the thanksgiving, which he did, then passed the cup round. The next part of the ceremony would be for the Head of the Company to rise and wash hands. Jesus instead of washing hands breaks with tradition, walks behind them and starts washing their feet.

It was a privileged role leading the Passover as head of the Company. It was a role that distinguished you from the others present at the table. However Jesus distinguished himself in the humblest of tasks instead. A humble task done in love is a characteristic of greatness in the kingdom of God.

In Jesus days, everyone walked in sandals, and the roads and paths were dirty, even on the Roman roads. In houses they had a slave, who would greet people and wash their feet. They had to wash their feet because they would be reclining around the table and the feet though just behind you would still be in smelling distance of your face.

They had rented this room but it didn't come with a slave. They had had a conversation about who was going to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God. (Luke 22v24). Jesus stops them, and says the one that is the greatest in my kingdom is the servant of all. Jesus laid aside his glory to put on flesh and come to earth. To come to earth and make us clean in Gods eyes.

Jesus wraps a towel round his waist, gets a bowl of water and starts walking round the perimeter of the table washing his disciples feet. Normally, If there was no slave in the house, it would be the job of a young child to wash the feet, because for first century Jews, children had no status and were considered of no importance. So it was quite fitting for them to do the lowest job of feet washing. Once Jesus said to his disciples **"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."** – Matthew 18v3). Here Jesus is showing the disciples again how they must be like a child and for his sake be prepared to do simple humble acts of love and service for others., even if you are treated as of having no importance. The mark of a true Jesus-style life.

We however are still interested in making a name for ourselves. Our pride pushes us forward to be recognised. We want people to see what we have done, what we have sacrificed for others. We want some credit, some acknowledgment. We might even go fishing for compliments. When we don't get it, we might not serve in that way again, and perhaps avoid jobs that we think that make us look lesser than we want to

look. We might choose to avoid the menial jobs. 'I am not washing toilets'. But Jesus says ' **If you do these things it will make you happy** '(v17).

When you know the Lord, you are free to serve. You will just want the Lord to be happy with your life, with no need to prove yourself to others. We are always concerned about our own status, and peoples impression of us. It stops us becoming servants. Once we are really content in who we are in Jesus, then we can do whatever he asks of us without worrying about what it looks like to anybody else.

As a Christian you are a son or daughter of the King of Kings. You are great in his eyes. If you are comfortable in that greatness, then it should not matter what others think of you. You can do the highest job or the lowest job, equally comfortable in both, and not look for recognition in either. Without Him you have nothing of lasting value or meaning, yet with his love in our lives everything is possible

Leonard Bernstein, the late conductor of the New York Philharmonic was once asked what was the most difficult instrument to play. Without hesitation he replied "The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find some-one who can play second fiddle with enthusiasm – that's a problem, and if we have no second fiddle, then we have no harmony."

Peter says No.

So the disciples are reclining in this way with their feet pointing out, and Jesus goes round the perimeter and washes their feet. He gets round 11 of them without incident, and then he gets to Peter, the last pair of feet. Perhaps Peter was taking on board the teaching that the first shall be last, and the last shall be first, so by taking the end seat, was declaring 'look how humble I am everybody !'.

Peter has been watching everything transpire, and he knew that Jesus thought that a leader must be like a servant (Lk 22v26). He thinks he can be the greatest, and as he watches all the other guys get their feet washed, he could be thinking these guys are messing up this test. They should be washing his feet, not him washing theirs. Just wait until I show them, I'll wash HIS feet. I'll be the best servant of all for Jesus, which will make me the greatest amongst them! So he says "**Lord are you washing my feet?** "

Jesus replies '**What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will know after this**'. He can see Peter is heading off in the wrong direction again, and Jesus wants to rescue him and put the brakes on it. Just let it rest Peter, you'll understand later. But Peter is not about to back out and say no more. Peter was trying to take humility to a whole new level of pride!

Sometimes Jesus will take us on the first step of a journey without much explanation. You will found out later why you are there. Peter was not going to wait until later to understand, he already had it all worked out. He says '**No - You shall never wash my feet**'.

Peter is mistaken in thinking that it is wrong for his Master to wash his feet. To him, this would be a humiliation of Jesus for his sake, which he could not accept. But it is important that Peter accepts Jesus humiliating himself for his sake, or else he could not later accept the humiliation of a naked Jesus crucified on a cross for him. So the Lord says to Peter Look, if I don't wash your feet, then you have no part with me.

The All-over wash v the foot wash

v9-10 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean.

Peter panics and flip-flops, OK OK, then not just my feet, but my hands, head, give me a shower. He loved Jesus, he did not want to be left out in any way. He couldn't see his own weakness, he needed the Lords help.

It may seem totally wrong that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords would die naked on a cross for me and you, but unless we accept this humiliation of Jesus for ourselves, then we can-not have a part in his Kingdom. The point is that we cannot clean ourselves up, we need Jesus to clean up our lives. In this way He is serving us. It is a free gift that we must accept. It comes out of His Grace and His Mercy.

When you are saved, all your sins are cleansed not just the sins you have done, but the ones you have not yet done. It was a once off sacrifice by Jesus for you. We say his blood washed away our sins. What we mean is that when God looks at us now, he sees the blood that Jesus lost, the price paid for us. In this humiliating act of love, we are forgiven and now acceptable in Gods sight.

However we still carry on doing things wrong. We still sin ! This does not change our relationship status with God. However our fellowship or communion with him is affected. As your unconfessed sin builds up again in your life then you lose your closeness to Jesus. You are still His son or daughter, but if you do things you know are wrong you may find that your daily walk with God is affected, and you aren't seeing your prayers answered or experiencing his blessings in the same way. You cut off your closeness to Him. It benefits us to be open and truthful and confess to God.

John Wesley said ' When we confess, we become more and more dead to Sin, and more and more alive to God. '

You as a Christian are clean in the sense that you are bought by Jesus, but you still need to go to him regularly and ask for forgiveness, to keep that relationship close. Of course we do that when we take communion and remember the Last Supper, but it would help us to do it more often. Believing in Jesus is a one off cleansing which seals us as a son or daughter of God, but the confession is our way of keeping us in close fellowship with Jesus. In the same way, that the disciples could have showered that morning, but walking along the dusty road in sandals, made just their feet dirty. So it was their feet that needed washing and not their whole bodies.

Jesus is teaching something profound to his disciples which they cannot understand until later. It is a physical picture of their spiritual state. Their committed hearts for Jesus has meant they are accepted as His own, and this relationship will be sealed once for all time by Jesus dying on the cross for them. This is what their clean bodies signify. However just as their feet get dirty daily, they will also sin daily, and just as they let Jesus clean their feet, they need to confess their sins frequently so that they can be cleaned of these spiritually and not allow their wrong deeds to affect their closeness to Jesus.

It is the same for us too. As we walk through our week, our spiritual bodies are still clean and saved, but our physical bodies and minds are making mistakes, saying and doing things wrong, and it is confession that cleans us up. It's important because God wants to maintain our relationship, but sin can hinder that. Our unconfessed sin can build up one on another until we can't see or feel Jesus, and our prayers become ineffective. Our relationship is not impacted by our daily wrongs. We are still His own. But the closeness of our fellowship with Jesus is impacted if we don't come to Jesus with them and say sorry.

So he says to Peter, even if you are clean, and you are clean, you still need your feet washed.

Confession is good.

In the 18th century Prussian king Frederick the Great was once touring a Berlin prison. As he passed by the prisoners they fell on their knees before him one by one to proclaim their innocence. But there was one man that remained silent. Frederick called to him, "Why are you here?" "Armed robbery, Your Majesty," was the reply. "And are you guilty?" "Yes indeed, Your Majesty, I deserve my punishment." Frederick then summoned the jailer and ordered him, "Release this guilty wretch at once. I will not have him kept in this prison where he will corrupt all the fine innocent people who occupy it." His confession freed him.

We, each one of us, still need to acknowledge our sin, and go to Jesus regularly to have that relationship restored. If you can get into the routine, then do it every night. First you could thank him for all the good stuff in your life over the last 24 hours. Then confess to Jesus what you have done wrong in the day, and ask for his forgiveness. If you do it daily, you'll also realise how patient he is with you, and will appreciate his mercy. After the 50th time in a row that you have lost your temper with your kids, or gossiped, or lusted, you won't hear God saying 'this has gone on for too long now' but instead you will hear ' My mercies are fresh every morning'. If we do this every day, we will start to realise how much we need Him, because we will start to realise we can't get through a day without doing wrong, or even get through a church service without thinking something wrong. Self-dependency is put out the door, and we begin to realise how

important His Grace is to each of us. Also it stops Satan getting a foothold in our lives, it will insulate us from our enemies. If you don't take things to the Lord, he can't help stop our bad habits developing.

Do as I do.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.

So Jesus puts his outer garment back on after washing their feet and says 'Do you know what I have done'. Each disciple probably nodded and said Yes- of course Jesus, whilst actually thinking 'I have absolutely no idea why he just did that !'

¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus says 'You call me teacher, cause I'm your mentor, and you call me Lord (because I am your Boss), and its right that you give me that honour. However from my exalted position in Gods eyes, I am still able today to set you an example of how to serve each other. None of you are greater than me, so if I can do the humblest of task for you, the task of a child, the task of a slave, then you should also be able to humble yourself and serve each other, even with the most menial of tasks. Today, I have given you this example to follow'.

Know who you are, a son or daughter of the King of Kings, but in that place of elevation in Gods sight, and be willing to humble yourself like the Lord who saved you, and go and serve others without any requirement to be gaining from it. Your desire is to love the Lord who came to save, so you become a servant.

The NIV quotes Jesus as saying **“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you** “ (v15) “not what I have done but as I have done” - Jesus is not saying we should do that actual thing of foot-washing, but the general practice of serving others.

I did though once offer to wash the feet of a Royal Prince of England. I was at a youth convention with members of my large Christian youth group called I-Y. We had a display of work that we did, and we had the Jesus of Nazareth film playing on a screen. As an additional novelty we had set up a chair and some warm water in bowls and were offering to wash anyone's feet that wanted it. Attending the event was the Queens youngest son Prince Edward. He came to me with his minder. It was a hot summers day. He was in a 3 piece suit. I was wearing the most outrageous pair of garish Bermuda shorts, and a bright Hawaiian shirt. I offered to wash his feet, but he refused. Then he looked at the screen, which at that moment was showing the crucifixion screen. He looked at me with some disdain, and said “What do you do with your youth group, show them video nasties’. I looked him in the eye, the Prince that at the time had the reputation of being the most Christian of the Queens off-spring and said ‘ That – is JESUS of Nazareth’ and kindly smiled.

You see, the purpose of the day was not to wash a Prince's feet, or impress him in any way. The purpose of that day and almost every other day of my life for nearly 30 years was to serve young people and show them Jesus, through teaching them a little, but by loving them a lot, and often going the extra mile for them. That day, I dressed a little silly because they liked it and I liked to have fun with them. With my fellow leaders we spent hours planning, setting up and taking down the event stands. I don't need to wash feet to serve. In thousands of different ways I could serve others regardless of how it makes me look good or look bad. It was probably a bit of both on that day, depending on who you were a 14 year old youth group member, or a Royal Prince. Besides what appears to be a glamorous job is usually over-rated. Former Czech president Vaclav Havel, “The real test of a man is not when he plays the role that he wants for himself, but when he plays the role destiny had for him’, which for us means the role that Jesus has for us.

We should use our privileged place of being Christians and walk in a self-denying way such that no task is too menial, or too demanding. That is how the Church stands out in the world, when we become servants of all, because the world is nothing like that. We see that in the parable, when the Good Samaritan went out of his way for an injured Jew, bandaging him up, taking him to an Inn and paying for him to be looked after there. He did everything for the injured man, when other Jews such as the priest and the Levite would not get involved. Jesus concluded that parable 'go and do the same thing' – go and show the same level of mercy. This is how we serve, how we play second fiddle, how we wash feet.

Don't look for Glory.

John in his 3rd letter warned the church about Diotrophes, who was self-serving and liked to be seen as the leader. Some-one that was looking for glory for himself and tried to keep the Apostles away from his church. It is so easy to fall into that trap if we don't remind ourselves of it. I do often. Be aware, and avoid seeking the glory. Give it all to Jesus. But as Christian Brothers and Sisters, don't forget to encourage each other, and those that are serving Jesus, just because they are not seeking it from you. Whilst we shouldn't seek the Glory, we still need encouraging. God gave Paul a friend in Barnabus, known as the 'son of encouragement' to keep Paul going through some of his toughest times.

What of Peter, well did finally learn his lesson, and in his first letter (1 Peter 5v5) he said be clothed (with slaves clothes) in humility (knowing who you are). Peter learnt that he did not need to seek to be great because he was already great in the eyes of Jesus, and in that position could serve others with total humility.

The World says that happiness comes from being served. Jesus says the opposite. Be a servant and you will be happy.

Summary

But what can we take home from this passage. Jesus was confident in his relationship with his Father, and the greatness he had as being part of that Trinity. Jesus was so confident in this greatness that he could humiliate himself in anyway without that greatness ever being in doubt. He demonstrated this was so by doing a slaves job, or a child's job when he washed the disciples feet. He also demonstrated this by humiliating himself naked on a cross for your sake and my sake. We must accept the humiliation of Jesus for our sakes, or we can have no part of Him.

His death on the cross was to make us his own and make us clean all over in Gods sight. We will then always be his own, but our daily sins will prevent Jesus getting as close to us as he wants. So we need to confess these regularly and be forgiven. This confession is our feet washing, and allows us to keep close to Jesus every day, and stop our enemy leading us into bad habits.

I don't know how you see yourself, but you may find it hard at times to accept how much Jesus loves you, and how great you are in his eyes. You **are** amongst those he calls His own, you **have** been adopted into His family. You are a Son or daughter of the King of Kings. In Kingdom terms, in spiritual terms, that makes you Great. So out of that greatness bestowed upon you, you can follow the example of Jesus and serve others with humility and kindness, no matter how high or low the job, without affecting that greatness in his eyes. We are His, He loves us, and we are great in his eyes.

So let us confess to Jesus daily to keep us close to Him and effective for Him. Let's recognise who we are in Jesus, stand firm in that knowledge, use it as a platform to serve each other, to encourage each other, and to love all those that He puts in front of us every day, with his help. Amen.