Wisdom Seekers Class — The Fathers Church in Dallas Texas
R. Les Terrill — 1 November 2026

The Humility and Love of the Lord

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. John 13:6-15

The rash or impulsive ignorance of the Apostle Peter.

Thou shalt never wash my feet.

And then to the other end of the spectrum…

Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

The Apostle Peter was characteristically impetuous. He was a high "quick start"… he would act without really thinking through the consequences of his actions… Are any of us like this? Who was it that was to cut off Malchus' ear in the garden just a few chapters later?

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: 9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. 10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? John 18:7-11

Another thing we see in the foot washing passage…

The inability of Peter to take in the real meaning of what his eyes beheld. He sees, but he does not understand. Jesus had just modeled humble servanthood… do unto others as I have done unto you. And shortly, he is cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant!

We see in Peter that men (this means many of us) may have plenty of faith and love, and absolutely miss the knowledge that the Lord would have us gain. We need to be careful that we

don't dismiss others or judge others as godless and not possessing any grace just because they appear to be lacking or dull in things of the spirit. Their heart may be right, and their head is wrong. Or maybe they have a corrupt understanding of spiritual precepts. The longer we experience the deep things of the spirit, and walk this pneumatikos walk, the more we will see that believers, like Peter, make many mistakes, and wander off the path, they experience missteps and lack understanding. Yet, like Peter, in spite of it all, having his heart right before God, be instrumental in building the church. "Upon this rock, I will build my church".

Do you find that many of Christ's dealings with us in this life are hard to understand? I do. The "why" and "what for" of many circumstances or events in our lives are perplexing… much the same as the servant work of washing feet perplexed Peter. The wisdom and necessity of many events in our lives will often be hidden. We must remember the words from Jesus to Peter [7] Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. John 13:7

Personally, I find that not knowing is the hardest part. We want to know!

Something else we should learn from this passage:

The core practical lesson of Jesus' message to the disciples, humility and love.

[15] For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. John 13:15

<u>Humility is the first part of the lesson.</u> If washing the servants feet by the Master was not beneath Him… base servant work, there is nothing that we, also His disciples (learners), should think we are too good to do.

[18] Pride goeth before destruction,
and an haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

Pride is offensive to God and damaging to our souls.

[5] Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 1 Peter 5:5

[11] For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 14:11

[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. Philippians 2:5-8

<u>Love is the second part of the lesson</u>. Our Lord would have us love others so much, that we really should delight in simply doing them good and doing what we can to promote their happiness. We can't make others happy, but we can do what we can to help foster and create an environment around them in which they can find happiness. We should rejoice in doing "random acts of kindness", even when (especially when) it costs us some measure of self-sacrifice or self-denial. As the song so aptly says, "They (the world) will know we are Christians by our love…". Humility and love are precisely the character traits the world can understand, even if they do not comprehend biblical doctrine. Sadly, love and humility stand out because they are so sorely lacking in our world today. Like Him, let us be humble and loving towards all.

There are deep, spiritual lessons that lie beneath the surface of this passage:

1. ***We all need to be "washed" by Christ.*** *[8] Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, <u>If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.</u> John 13:8 [11] And such were some of you (rabble-rousers): but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11*
2. ***Even those that are cleansed and forgiven need a daily application of the blood of Christ for daily pardon.*** *We are not "of" this world, but we are "in" this world. We can't walk in this world without getting dirty. We fail, and come short in many areas… are there any of us who are not in need of grace?!*
    a. *[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. John 13:8*
    b. *[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. John 13:10*
3. ***Even those who walked most closely with Christ, and were baptized with water as His disciples, were "not all" washed from their sin.***

[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, <u>but not all.</u> [11] For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. John 13:10-11

[12] Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. [13] There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13