

(4)

Jo. 13:1, 3-4, 12-15

As Jesus acts out this lesson on **servant hood** - giving his reasons - notice Peter's response - "not me Lord"

Christ's rebuke - "If you don't let me then you have no part with me"

This is a surprising rebuke of Peter by Jesus - is this ~~for~~ really that important? Is it really necessary for Peter to let Jesus wash his feet? and if so, why?

What Christ is telling us here is that we are very prideful in how we @relate to one another and how we relate to God - It is humiliating to have God "wash our feet" - serve us -

We refuse - we want to do it ourselves Christ says "I insist. These are my terms" He says "I can handle your sins I can wash you clean - BUT I can't handle your PRIDE - (self-will)

You know that's the meaning of Christ's death on the Cross - He died for our sins to wash us all clean

But if we are too proud to accept His gift of forgiveness, if we keep insisting "No, that's too humiliating - too easy I want to earn my way to God with my good works - I want to come to God & say I'm here - I got the job done - what's my reward?"

⑤ That attitude won't fly with God - He's against our PRIDE - He says - "You don't even see how sinful you are and how far you fall short of my Holy + R character Unless I wash you - You have no part with Me"

I So you have to decide "Am I going to let Christ pay for my sins - as a free gift?"

II Or "Am I going to insist on paying for them myself?"

I That's the choice facing us tonight either letting God serve us

II or being too proud - this is a mysterious thing - this pride - this resistance to accepting God's Gift of forgiveness

II God insists on us dropping our pride and accepting His washing as a free un-earned gift - it's called God's Grace

We must submit to Christ's loving servicing - humbly -

When Christ had washed their feet he applied His Parable (V. 12 - 15)

and this is exactly how Christ teaches us to serve + love one another →

as we accept and experience His forgiveness = servicing us by His love = accepting us just as we are
→ We find our pride + our resistance swept away by the love of Christ

⑥ The next thing we know we discover within ourselves the ability & the desire to serve and love our brother & sister (v. 16-17) you are happy & fulfilled if you do these things. Christ is saying "I've explained and demonstrated a ~~set~~ serving, loving lifestyle. Now you do as I have done and that is the only way you will experience happiness and fulfillment and real love". Christ says "What you need is not that someone come and meet your needs - that just leads to more demands on your part - more selfishness - more unhappiness.

What you need is to give yourself away in sacrificial service to others - loving them unconditionally - ~~that~~ you start learning how to do this and amazingly your needs will be met - and more, Christ Himself will fill us up with His Love & Contentment & fulfillment (v. 34-35)

This distinctive love is the result of "bearing the cross" of serving others of "losing your life in order to gain it". Here are 4 Principles of Spiritual Leadership -
Spiritual Maturity
Spiritual Fulfillment

