

Sermon Notes for Reflection and Discussion - John 13:5-11

February 1, 2026

John 13:5-11

[5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" [10] Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." [11] For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." (ESV)

1 - Read and Observe

Read John 13:5-11 aloud. What do you observe about this passage? Who is speaking? To whom is he speaking? About what is he speaking?

2 - Reveal About God

Through this beautiful, profound yet simple act, Jesus shows us what God is like. How? What does this passage reveal about God? About his love? His initiative? His humility? His relationship with his disciples?

3 - Message

In this sermon Jamie Brown stated, "Jesus washes our feet one time. When you receive his washing, that is all you need. You are assured of your eternal acceptance in Christ." Explain the distinction between being washed once for your eternal acceptance in Christ, and washing regularly? In other words, what is the distinction between receiving, by faith, Jesus' cleansing of our sin nature and his gift of new life (2 Corinthians 5:17), and Jesus' forgiveness of our sins (1 John 1:9)?

4 - Sin → Shame or Salvation?

Jesus tells Peter, ". . . but later you will understand" (John 13:7). Do we better understand the depths of God's love for us after we understand the depths of our sin?

Jamie Brown raised this question. "Does sin lead to shame? Or the Savior?" And what of shame? After receiving Jesus' cleansing from our sin nature and our new life in Christ, do we need to bear the unbearable weight of guilt and shame? Why?

What do we do when the crow of the rooster reminds us of our guilt and shame? How can we respond? [Note: Jesus' voice is louder than the rooster's crow.]

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Jamie Brown stated this points us to a fundamental and important fact. "The power is not in the quantity of washing but in who is doing the washing." What does he mean? Why is this important to you?

5 - On My Worst Day

Isaiah, the prophet, wrote, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10).

How is this true of those who, by faith, are in Christ?

John Lynch, an author, describes this truth this way. "I am 'Christ in me' on my worst day, in my worst thought, during my worst temptation." What does that mean? And what does that mean to you?

6 - Other thoughts?

Do you have other thoughts - or questions - about this passage? And this sermon? Does it inform the work the Lord began in you (Philippians 1:6)? Your identity? Your love for others? Your movement toward others? Your service?