

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: When Humility Looks Different Than We Think

Reading: Matthew 16:21-26; John 13:6-9

Peter's resistance to Jesus washing his feet wasn't humility—it was pride disguised as spirituality. True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Like Peter, we often tell God "no" when He invites us into uncomfortable places of surrender. We want to serve God on our terms, maintaining control while appearing spiritual. But Jesus calls us to receive His service first before we can truly serve others. Are you allowing Jesus to wash your feet, or are you too busy protecting your image? Genuine discipleship begins with surrendering our self-directed spirituality and simply receiving what Christ offers.

Day 2: The Difference Between Bath and Foot Washing

Reading: 1 John 1:5-10; Hebrews 10:14-18

Salvation is a bath—complete, thorough, once-for-all cleansing. Daily confession is the foot washing—necessary maintenance for ongoing fellowship. Many believers live in confusion about this distinction, either presuming they need to "get saved" repeatedly or neglecting the daily cleansing confession provides. You don't need another bath; Christ's work is finished. But as you walk through this dirty world, your feet get soiled. Unconfessed sin doesn't break your union with God, but it hinders your communion with Him. Keep short accounts with your Heavenly Father.

Day 3: The Danger of Religious Activity Without Cleansing

Reading: Matthew 7:21-23; John 13:10-11

Judas witnessed miracles, heard profound teaching, and participated in ministry—yet he was never truly clean. His religious activity masked spiritual bankruptcy. This sobering reality challenges us: proximity to Jesus and participation in Christian activities don't equal salvation. Jesse James could rob banks and sing in church choirs because he never experienced genuine transformation. You can attend services, use spiritual language, and serve in ministries while remaining unwashed by Christ's grace. The question isn't whether you've been around Christianity, but whether you've personally surrendered to Jesus as Lord. Have you had that initial bath—the moment you confessed your sin and received His cleansing? Everything else flows from that foundational encounter. Religious performance without regeneration leads only to judgment.

Day 4: The Path to True Blessing

Reading: John 13:12-17; Philippians 2:3-11

After washing their feet, Jesus asked if they understood. They probably didn't—they'd just been arguing about greatness in the kingdom. We make the same mistake, measuring significance by power, position, and influence. Jesus reveals a revolutionary truth: happiness and God's blessing come through humble service. The disciples wanted thrones; Jesus offered towels. We want recognition; Jesus calls us to obscurity. True greatness in God's kingdom looks like Jesus with a basin, not Caesar with a crown. Serving isn't what you do after you become important; serving is how you become important in God's economy. Today, look for opportunities to wash feet—to serve without recognition, to meet needs without announcement, to follow Christ's example practically. Blessing follows obedience in service.

Day 5: Living as Washed People

Reading: Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:12-17

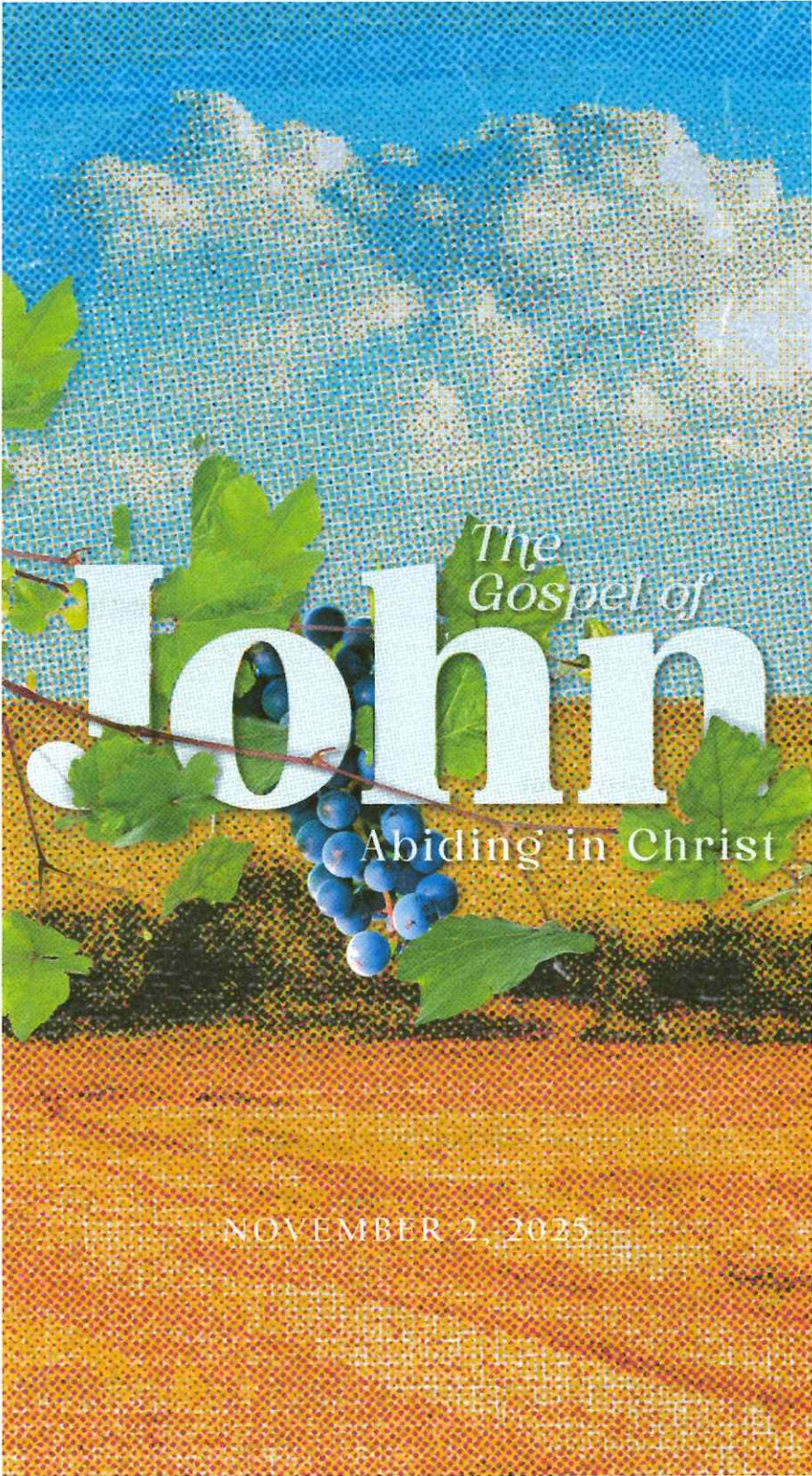
You've been bathed in Christ—clothed with His righteousness, cleansed by His blood. This isn't theoretical theology; it's transformative identity. Because you're washed, you can now wash others. Because you've received grace, you can extend grace. Because Christ served you in your unworthiness, you can serve others without demanding they earn it. The Christian life isn't about striving to become clean enough for God; it's about living from the reality that you already are clean in Christ. This frees you from performance anxiety and releases you into joyful service. You're not serving to gain acceptance but serving because you're already accepted. Let this truth reshape how you approach today. Walk as someone who has been bathed, keeping your feet clean through confession, and extending Christ's basin-ministry to a world desperate for His touch.

DEACONS ON CALL

Danny Bell and John Gray

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



Clean / John 13:6-17

There's something deeply uncomfortable about watching someone wash your feet. It's intimate, humbling, and for many of us, completely unnecessary in our modern world. For Jesus and His Disciples, this wasn't just a gesture of kindness. It was a masterclass in what it means to follow God—a lesson so profound that we're still unpacking it two thousand years later.

1. Humility is often _____.

- Humility is **not** _____ your talents or abilities.
- Humility is **not** _____.
- Humility is **not** _____.
- Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself _____.

2. Cleansing is never _____.

- All Christians have _____ with God because of what Jesus did, but not all Christians have _____ with God.
- Unconfessed sin _____ your relationship with God

3. Serving is always _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Matthew 16:22; Matthew 17:4; Leviticus 19:18; Galatians 3:27; Hebrews 10:17; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 139:23-24; Isaiah 59:1-2; John 1:25; Matthew 7:21-23
Referenced Works: Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Addresses on the Gospel of John (H. A. Ironside); The Beloved Disciple's Memoirs and Letters (Bob Utley); John: That You May Believe (R. Kent Hughes); The Gospel of John (Jack Wilton Stallings)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when someone served you in an unexpected way. How did it make you feel?
2. Read **John 13:6-17**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think Peter resisted Jesus washing his feet? What does this reveal about Peter's understanding of humility?
4. Patrick said: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." How does this definition challenge common views of humility?
5. Explain the difference between "bathing" and "foot washing." Why is this distinction important?
6. Patrick said: "All Christians have union with God because of what Jesus did, but not all Christians have communion with God." What breaks our communion with God? How do we restore it?
7. How often do you practice confession of sin? What keeps us from keeping "short accounts with God"?
8. Jesus said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." What does "washing feet" look like in practical terms today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Set aside 5 minutes each evening to pray Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to search your heart and confess any sin He reveals.
- Perform one act of humble service for someone without them knowing it was you. Reflect on how it felt to serve without recognition.
- Ask yourself: "Have I truly been 'bathed' by Jesus, or am I just going through religious motions?" If you're uncertain about your salvation, talk to a trusted Christian friend or pastor this week.