

Does Jesus want us to wash feet today?

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At the last supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15). Does this mean we should be washing people's feet today?

In Jesus' day people wore sandals and walked on dusty roads which made their feet filthy. This made it necessary for their feet to be washed every day. Today we ride in cars on paved roads and wear shoes that cover our feet, so there's no need to wash feet. Why would we wash feet if there's no need to do it?

When Jesus came to wash Peter's feet he said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head" (13:9). Jesus answered, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet..." (13:10). In other words, only his feet were dirty and needed to be washed.

I know of a church that washes people feet every Sunday (even though they aren't dirty) because Jesus said to do this. But they miss the point. Jesus said, "For I have given you **an example** that you should do as I have done for you." Jesus did this to leave us "an example" that goes beyond the changes in culture over time.

First, it's an example of humility. In those days washing other people's feet was a slave's job. Jesus said, "A slave is not greater than his master" (13:16) and washed their feet. If no job was too humiliating for Jesus, then **no job should be beneath us**.

Second, it's an example of serving others. Jesus did **not** say, "If I wash your feet, you can serve Me by washing My feet." He said wash other people's feet. In other words, the way we serve God is to serve others.

So what does "washing feet" look like today? It could mean mowing someone's yard, cleaning a bathroom, helping a person with a problem, fixing someone's flat tire, shoveling snow off your neighbor's driveway, or taking a meal to a sick person. Ask God what He wants you to do. He will show you the best way to humbly serve other people.

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