

# Coming Clean on Foot Washing

# Footwashing – NT church?

- People wore sandals on unpaved roads
- Common courtesy: host furnished water for visitors to wash their feet...

The nearest we come to this practice:  
washing hands before we eat

# Footwashing – NT church?

- We do not wash hands as a ritual, but to get them clean
- We do not wash feet as a ritual, but to get them clean

# I. Biblical History of Foot Washing

- Gn.18:4, little water...wash your feet
- Gn.43:24, they washed their feet
- Ex.40:30, water for washing hands and feet
- Jg.19:21, they washed their feet
- Mk.7:3, wash hands in special way
- Lk.11:37-38, did not wash before eating
- Lk.7:36-38, 44, saved woman washed His feet
- Jn.12:1-3, Mary anointed His body / washed feet
- 1 Tim.5:10, if she has washed saints' feet
- Is.1:16, wash yourselves . . .

I. Biblical History of Foot Washing

## II. Jesus Did More Than Wash Feet

# Super Bowl ads

‘Jesus went around washing feet; we should, too’

- Ads do not teach plan of salvation
- Misrepresent what Jesus did
- Funding: ‘*He Gets Us*’
  - Previous ads: Lord is rebel . . . refugee
  - Maundy Thursday / holy week / Last Supper
  - Effects of ad: clean feet? . . .unchanged heart
    - No focus on Jesus’ deity / plan of salvation
    - Clean feet do not save

# Jesus

- Servant
- Prophet, Priest, King,
- Miracle worker, Son of God, Savior, Judge
- He is Son of Man
- He is Lord; Almighty; Anointed; Messiah
- He is Emmanuel; God; Holy one; Jesus of Nazareth; Master; Messiah; The Word; (Deity)



## Mt.4:23 . . . 9:35

- His emphasis: not clean feet, but souls
- Jn.15:3

## Mk.5, Gadarene demoniac

- Jesus dominated demons, 9-20
- Jesus rescued victims, 25-34

## Mk.7:1-9, law of Pharisees / Scribes

- Washing hands

## Jn.3:2, Nicodemus

- Signs prove He is Teacher from God
- ‘Now I’ll wash your feet...?’

Jn.6:...14, fed thousands

Jn.20:30

- We have only a small portion of His works
- Jn.21:25

I. Biblical History of Foot Washing

II. Jesus Did More Than Wash Feet

**III. Jesus Washed  
The Disciples' Feet**

# Disciples too proud to wash others' feet – Jn.13

1: on verge of horrible sufferings...

2: 'during supper'

3: begins with statement of glory. Mt.28:18;  
Jn.3:2; Ph.1:10-11

4: in sandals, feet became dirty; hospitality  
(1 Sm.25:41)

5: no disciple volunteers for this job... Lk.22

6: Peter is right: they don't deserve Jesus...

7: this was not merely feet-washing

8: Peter did his thinking out loud...

9: Peter goes from extreme to another

# Disciples too proud to wash others' feet

10: they were already 'bathed'

11: Jesus speaks of spiritual cleansing

12: 'Do you know...?' They could usually say no

13: Teacher / Lord...He took form of a servant

14: Disciple should serve as Master did

15: an example: do as... He does not establish a foot-washing ritual, but an attitude: true greatness is humble

16-17: blessed: object of God's favor.

Faith works

- John 13:14, 'disciples should wash one another's feet'
  - Perfect time to tell them to begin a foot-washing ministry
  - Why not commission them to wash every foot in the world?

- Acts 2 – the day of the kingdom has come
- What will the apostles do?
  - 1-3: miraculous display of heavenly power
  - 4-12: filled with Spirit...
  - 13: mockers – Peter and others respond by rushing out to wash their feet and show their love?? 14-16 . . .
  - 17-36: Peter preached, proved, pleaded. What about the feet?
  - 37-41: audience: cut to the heart – washed souls, not feet

## What happened on Acts 2?

- Miraculous signs, sincere people, gospel preached, OT confirmed, Jesus is real, cut to heart, thousands obey gospel; continued to study, obey, grow...

What would have happened if they supported Super Bowl commercial?

- Peter would stand, say, 'Jesus went about washing feet. We should too'
- People would go home with clean feet and lost souls



## Reminders – many people ...

1. have largely abandoned the gospel. The ad does nothing to change it
2. do not study the Word as in former years. The ad is not a Bible study
3. have replaced the Bible with other things. Gimmicks do not save
4. have forfeited heaven for success, money, and recreation
5. are universalists: why waste time washing feet? All are saved

- Acts 13<sup>51</sup> But they shook the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.  
<sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
  - If all are saved, why shake dust off feet? What does it mean? Why not just wash their feet?
- Ro.10<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’