

RUSSELL SANDERS
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FOOT WASHING

Jesus and his disciples walked wherever they went. They wore sandals; therefore, their feet would get dusty or dirty. It was customary that whenever they came to someone's house the host would have his household servant wash the feet of the guests. The host never did it since it was a lowly servant's job.

At the Last Supper, Jesus, himself, washed the feet of the disciples. Peter objected because it was not a master's task to perform. Jesus did it to show humility as a lesson for all of us to follow. The story is found in John 13:4-16. However, verse 10 gives us a deeper understanding of what Jesus was illustrating. It was hidden until the time that the plan of redemption was completed, and the Holy Ghost was given.

Verse 10 says, ***"He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit. And ye (all) are clean, but not all (Judas Iscariot)."***

The ESV gives verse 10 this rendering: ***"The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you (all) are clean, but not every one of you."*** Jesus was saying the eleven were clean, but Judas was not. He was speaking of spiritual cleanness, not physical cleanliness.

Those today who have been born again through faith upon Jesus, are clean through the washing of His blood. Those who are not saved (born again) are like Judas Iscariot.

So, how does the washing of the feet fit in? Although we are made righteous in Father's eyes through Jesus, we do still get our feet "dirty" with sin (dirt, dust) as we walk the roads of daily life. That is why spiritually we need our "feet washed" daily.

This is the very reason we have the scripture in 1 John 1:7-10. It is written to believers, those that are saved, not to unsaved sinners. Verse 9 says, ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** This is how we have Jesus wash our feet every day. This is the deeper meaning of the foot washing that Jesus illustrated. It is more than humility and servanthood. It is a continuous cleansing of our sins. We are washed by his blood and by the washing of the water of the word.