

John 13:4

Note: In Bible times, it was common for people to wear sandals and walk on dirt roads. As a result their feet would get very dirty. It was the custom when practicing hospitality, for the host to provide a basin of water for their guests to wash their feet. This was a kind courtesy and a sign of respect to the guests. If the guest were especially honored, the host would have a servant wash their feet.

(1)

Think about [John 13:4-5](#).

(Jesus) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 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.

- Jesus said you will know people by their fruits. ([Matthew 7:16-20](#)) What does this deed make known about Jesus?

Think about [John 13:6-8](#).

He (Jesus) came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

- Why did Peter try to stop Jesus from washing his feet?
- At that Passover supper, what was Jesus doing, that Peter would not understand until later? Consider [Matthew 20:28](#). (Jesus said) ... *"the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
- What is the end result for those who refuse to let Jesus wash them? Consider [John 13:8](#) ... *Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."*

(2)

Think about [John 13:9-10](#).

Simon Peter said to him (Jesus), "Lord, not my feet only but also (wash) my hands and my head!" 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," ...

- When a bathed person walks on a dirty path by mistake, what is the only part he or she must wash to be completely clean again?

- What does this figure of speech mean for believers in Jesus?

Consider [1John 2:1-2](#). *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins--and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*

(3)

Think about [John 13:12-17](#).

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

- Why did Jesus wash his students feet?
- Before someone decides to call Jesus their Lord and master, what cost should they be ready to pay?

Consider [Philippians 2:3-8](#). *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross!*

- What does Jesus promise those who follow his example? (See John 13:12-17 quoted above.)