

BIBLE READING DAY 40, THURSDAY: APRIL 7

Jesus Teaches Humility

John 13:3–20

Then Jesus, fully aware that the Father had committed all things into his hands and that he had come from God and would return to God, rose from the supper table, laid aside his garments, and took a towel and 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 around his waist. And he came to Simon Peter.

Three separate words are used here:

"bathed", "wash" and "completely clean" is a word from which we get the word *catharsis*, which means a cleaning of the digestive system or a purifying inwardly, physically, or emotionally.

To be bathed is a symbol of our salvation. To wash symbolizes our need for confessing our sins through regular prayer. And being "completely clean" symbolizes our inner purification by God's Holy Spirit.

The beautiful symbolism here is that God bathes you at salvation, washes you regularly when you sin, and purifies you inwardly in your heart.

Timothy C. McKeown,
The Gospel of John, One Day at a Time

"Lord," said Peter, "are you going to wash my feet?"

"You do not know now what I am doing," replied Jesus, "but you will understand later on."

"You shall never wash my feet!" said Peter.

"Unless I wash you," replied Jesus, "you have no part with me."

"Lord," said Simon Peter, "not just my feet, but also my hands and my head!"

He who has bathed," said Jesus, "needs only to wash his feet to be clean all over. And you are clean, though not all of you."

(For Jesus knew who was betraying him, and that is why he said, "Not all of you are clean.")

When he had washed their feet, Jesus put on his garments and sat down again and said, "Do you understand the meaning of what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I therefore, your Lord and Master, washed your feet, you ought also to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. I tell you truly, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one

who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"I am not speaking of all of you. I know whom I have chosen. But the scripture must be fulfilled,

'He who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'

"I am telling this to you now, before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass you may believe that I am he. I tell you truly, he who receives anyone whom I send receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me."

Events at the Last Supper

Matthew 26:21–29; Mark 14:22–26; Luke 22:15–16; John 13:22–30

And Jesus said to them, "With great longing have I desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

And as they were eating, Jesus said, "I tell you truly, one of you will betray me."

And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him, one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"

"One who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me," answered Jesus. "The Son of Man will go, of course, as it was written of him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

Then Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?"

"As you say," said Jesus.

The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom Jesus had spoken. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was leaning against his breast. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him and said, "Tell us who it is of whom he is speaking."

Leaning thus against the breast of Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

"It is the one to whom I give this sop after I dip it," replied Jesus.

And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot; and after Judas took the sop, Satan entered into him.

"What you are going to do, do quickly," said Jesus.

None of the others sitting at the table knew why Jesus said this to him. Because Judas had charge of the money bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. And he took the sop and went out at once, and it was night.

And as they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it, and broke it and gave it to the disciples.

"Take this and eat it," he said. "This is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them.

"All of you drink of it," he said. "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. I say to you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 40 (THURSDAY APRIL 7)

I Was Saved, I Am Being Saved, I Shall Be Saved

Based on Matthew 26:26–29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14–23; John 13:22–30

At First Baptist Church of Killeen, we try to have Communion or Lord's Supper about every two months. Other churches have it weekly, while others have it quarterly. There is a past, present, and future part of Communion or more commonly called the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a special act of worship that represents a wonderful spiritual truth for believers.

What does Communion mean?

I really like the word "communion". It reminds us of our "common union" that we have together with one another and also with Jesus. Paul used this word in 1 Corinthians 10:16, saying, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*". There's the common union we have with Christ. The very next verse says, "*For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread,*" (1 Corinthians 10:17).

Elsewhere, that word is translated as fellowship. We have fellowship with each other and with Christ every time we take the Lord's Supper.

Before we take Communion, we are supposed to be restored to our brothers and sisters. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church because while they came together for the Lord's Supper, they were not there in "fellowship" with each other or "communion". He wrote, "When you come together, it's not for better but it is actually for the worse. I hear that there are divisions among you, and I believe it," (1 Corinthians 11:17-18)

What does Communion show?

In observing this memorial, we see the three aspects of our salvation: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

We see justification, or the fact that we have been forgiven of our sins by Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. Jesus said, "*This is My body*" and "*This is My blood*". By His sacrificial death, we have been made right with God, by the forgiveness of our sins. As a result, we "proclaim His death" every time we observe the Lord's Supper.

Secondly, "as often as we eat and drink" the Lord's Supper, we see our sanctification, or God's setting us apart to be dedicated to the work of service. That is why we are called to examine ourselves prior to partaking. Every time that we eat the bread and drink the cup, we should be seeking to be more like Christ than we were the previous time.

Thirdly, we are to observe the Lord's Supper "until He comes." Jesus promised that He would not eat or drink of it, until the kingdom of God comes. We are looking forward eating with Christ at "the Marriage Supper of the Lamb" in our glorified, sinless, and perfected bodies in Heaven someday (Revelation 19:9). That will be our glorification.

In the Lord's Supper we remember we were saved (Justification), that we are being saved (Sanctification) and that we someday will be ultimately saved (Glorification).

Lord Jesus, how I wish I could have been with You at the Last Supper and how happy I am that I will be with you and the Lamb's Supper. Until then, wash my feet. Take away the dirt of this world that cakes between my toes and causes a stench to our spirits. Until then, keep me from betraying You, from denying You. You gave thanks for the cup.

--By Tim McKeown

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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