

## Suffering Part 2

(Washing the Feet)

**“1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' 7 Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 8 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' 9 'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!' 10 Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 13 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:1-17)**

Many who would pass through hardships and trials will try to avoid, or complain, or retaliate to be deviated from passing through suffering. But let us look of how Jesus passed through suffering. Jesus faced the cross with prayer and fully surrenders His will to God and He was led to offer more love and service to His disciples by washing their feet.

When you have the attitude to accept the trial that God ordained for you to stand then you will go into prayer, kneeling down, surrendering your will to God and yielding your life and your heart unto Him, willingly to be a vessel to impart His love to the people around Him, and to the disciples that God had placed in your life. Therefore when you are about to enter into a stage of suffering then you face that with the following:

**1- Love:** **“Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.” (John 13:1b)** Always love is the right attitude toward God and his mission on earth, and will lead you to do the right thing in facing trials. That is why the word of God telling us the following: **“37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)**

**2- Action and not reaction:** **“The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.” (John 13:2)** Even a person would betray Jesus and would harm Him but He did not retaliate and thought to harm. Instead he

was filled with God’s love, and was willing to offer service unto God. Think not to harm but to do something that will bring God’s love and service to others around you and to the people under your care and ministry. You need to overcome anger, **“1 I said, 'I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.' 2 But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased. 3 My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue.” (Psalm 39:1-3)** There were wicked people around David as Judas was around Jesus, but David when He wanted to burst he did not open his mouth and complain to man but to God, **“4 Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life.” (Psalm 39:4)** Jesus did not go and fight with Judah. Do also the same with the people who attacked you, have self-control, pray for them and be patient and wait upon God to handle them and vindicate you, **“1 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. 8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil. 9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.” (Psalm 37:1,7-9)**

**3- Understanding:** **“3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.” (John 13:3)** Jesus knew from where He came and where He is going. The same is with you, you must know from where God had taken you and where He is bringing you; to heaven. You must also understand that God had called you and you are the person that God relied upon.

**4- Willingness:** **“So he got up from the meal,” (John 13:4a)** Do it willingly and joyfully! What God is leading you to do, humble down, and do it willingly as Jesus did; He humbled himself and accepted the cross and no one forced Him. **“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8)** Jesus when He got up from the table the table was full of delicious food, but He was willing to leave the comfort zone in order to serve the people that God ordained for Him to care. The same for you, if you want to serve God you need to leave, food, tables, titles, positions, delicacies, feast and pleasures of this world as our Lord did. The Holy Spirit does not reside in title, positions, prestige, but in your willingness to be used as channel of blessings to convey the love to others. Be willing to leave your riches and whatever privileges you have and be willing to humble down in order to reach people who are in position less than you, **“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.” (Romans 12:16)**

Washing of the feet it mean dealing with dirt, dust and mud, that hidden between toes, and it mean cleaning of area that is dirty using our hand to rub and water to clean. In the Spirit, washing of the feet is offering service to clean from sin (sanctification) **“19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)** Using hand means, praying and laying on hands that will bring healing to the wounds of the people. Laying on of hands, means casting out demons that reside in people, who give footholds for them to live in. You must know that your love to the lost and your service will help the people to get delivered from demons. The water is the word of God **“to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.” (Ephesians 5:26)** Use the word of God to council the people: the

word of God brings healing. The word of God is a medicine. Sometime when you apply a medicine on a wound it may cause pain so we need to be careful and gently apply the word of God to the people. Washing of the feet bring refreshment to those who had travelled long journey. And we are called to bring the word of God and the message that brings joy, hope and restoration into people life.

When the Lord was washing the disciples' feet He treated the entire 12 apostle. The same for us we should do our part and show God's love to everyone whom God put under our care. Even to people like Judah we just need to do our part and pray for them to repent and respond to God's love and care.

When the Lord approached Peter to wash his feet Peter did not understand the meaning of it, but the Lord explained to him that is mandatory, **"6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." (John 13:6-8)** In addition to that the Lord discerned that the disciples might not understand fully what He was doing as He told them, **"Do you understand what I have done for you?" (John 13:12b)** The point we need to emphasise that the people or the disciples who are under our care may not grasp or understand what we are saying or doing, for that reason then we need to be patient and considerate till they are mature and can digest the word of God and our actions.

When Peter realized the importance for him that the Lord Jesus should wash his feet he said, **"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" (John 13:9)** But Jesus replied was this. **"A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean," (John 13:10)** Peter requested unnecessary thing to be done, and from Jesus reply we can learn the following:-

- A- The church should not do anything unnecessary and wastes the resources without contributing anything to the real people's needs. Churches now a day have many activities and programs but the main need and people sin and suffering is not met. The church should have discernment and act tactfully; not to give unnecessary showers but wash the feet and clean the dirty parts.
- B- The Church and Christ disciples and workers should have the courage and willing to suffer in order to meet the need of the people and help them and deliver them. The church should not miss the wounds but to touch them with God's word to clean them, sooth them and comfort them.


Speaking about washing of the feet is doing something that coast you to leave your comfort zone and your privileges and suffer for the sake that other will get the benefit of knowing Christ and following Him. Most of the time such service with suffering might not be recognized by others or might not be appreciated by others, but that should not be a discouragement factor for you. Instead persevere and stand firm, be encouraged with God's word, **"15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God**

**has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it." (1 Corinthians 12:15, 22-24)** You have an important ministry. Others might have bigger achievement than you, but what you are doing they cannot do. So go on and praise God and appreciate the suffering that you are in; you are bringing fruit that God desires and cherish.

**My dear and Beloved:** The word of God tells us the following: **"But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God." (Isaiah 49:4)** No one can reward you for your service unto Him. Those who ignore you and not appreciate you, remember, even it is not in their hand to reward you. Even they cannot reward themselves. God will reward you for your labour and He will reward everyone according to what he had done. Therefore go forward and serve Him. Leave the comfort zone and get up from tables and the title that does not bring glory to God. Go forward led by The Holy Spirit and instructed with His word to reach the lost, the wounded and injured and help them with God's word and extend your hands to them, serve them and wash their feet, and **"Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." (Isaiah 35:4)** As you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to abide with your word in doing your will and whatever you had planned for me. Lord I am willing to pass through the road that you ordained for me to pass through. Lord help me to endure the suffering that I am about to pass through, knowing that it is your will for me in Christ Jesus. Lord fill me with your Holy Spirit and let your grace sufficient for me to endure all of that so I can go on and serve the wounded people and help them and heal their wounds and wash their feet and serve them. Lord give me good health and the joy to go on and serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*

# Jesus Christ



## The Bread Of Life

Vol. 15

Issue 3

**"19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." (Acts 20:19-20)**

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