

Title: Stinking Feet

Read: John 13 1-17

¹⁻² Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was suppertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal. ³⁻⁶ Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Master, you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later." ⁸ Peter persisted, "You're not going to wash my feet—ever!" Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you can't be part of what I'm doing." ⁹ "Master!" said Peter. "Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!" ¹⁰⁻¹² Jesus said, "If you've had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you're clean. But not every one of you." (He knew who was betraying him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you.") After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table. ¹²⁻¹⁷ Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

Think:

So Jesus washed the disciples feet, what difference does that make to us? Jesus took the grubbiest job and got on with it. Washing your mates feet, at the end of a sweaty, dusty day would not have been nice. Actually you probably would have got your lowest servant to do it. But Jesus didn't, actually Jesus did four things. Firstly he was observant enough to spot a way he could do something for his friends and fellow believers. Then he got on and did it. He didn't send money, he didn't arrange for someone else to do it. No Jesus felt it was important enough that he did it. Thirdly he washed everyone's feet, even Judas who he new would betray him. He didn't pick and choose the guys he liked; he did it to all of them. Finally he was very straightforward and said, I am doing this so you guys can use me as an example. Jesus was plain that this is how we should look after one another. There was no messing with this, and I was reminded this week of a famous old preacher guy call John Wesley who put it another way. John said "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can." So as you look around at your mates, and those who go to your church or youth group that you might not like as much; can you see things that people need to be helped with? If you can't should you be looking a bit harder? After all Jesus was very plain that him washing the disciples feet wasn't a one off it was a way we should live our lives.

Pray:

Father please give me a heart to serve others in the way that you would like me to. Amen.

Action:

So can you find one person to help this week? Why not do that and then email us to let us know how you go on. Email podcast@aftershock.org.uk. Bye for now.