

Worship on God's Terms – The Laver

Tabernacle is temporary – symbolizes Jesus' first coming in humility

Temple is more permanent- symbolizes Jesus' second coming in glory

Recap the Altar

Exodus 30:18-21 – “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, ¹⁹ for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. ²⁰ When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die. ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations.”

- It is made of bronze – so it also has to deal with judgement.
- It is designed for washing. Specifically, hands and feet.
 - Before doing ministry. Before going into the presence.
- The priests were commanded to wash their hands and their feet before ministering or before going into the Tabernacle “lest they die.” The “lest they die” part shows the importance of this practice.

Washing

Why did they wash? To get rid of the dust of the world.

How do we wash, what are we washing off, and is it still as important?

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- The word is how we wash. The Word is for the cleansing of the church.

- The Word washes the junk of the world off of us. There is a lot going on around us. A lot of negativity, ugliness, sin. There is foul language, dirty stories, hedonism, greed and all sorts of other junk going on all around us.
- Before we minister, and before we come into the presence of God, we need to wash the world off of us with the Word.

The Pharisees Question about Washing

- **Mark 7:1-3** Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ² Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. ³ For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders.
- **Mark 7:5** Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”
- **Mark 7:6-8** He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘*This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*’⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”
- **Mark 7:14-16** When He had called all the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. ¹⁶ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Jesus says that what is already inside of us defiles us.

He clarifies in Matthew:

Matthew 23:26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

The Word of God cleanses us from the inside out.

- David said he hid God's word in His heart so that he would not sin
 - **Psalm 119:11** Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Going back to the Laver:

Exodus 38:8 He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

- Made of mirrors.
- The Word shows us our condition. Reveals both flaws and perfection. Reveals Truth.

James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- Deceived like sucking it in when looking in a mirror.
 - When we truly believe, that will affect our actions. This is why James says we can tell what we believe by how we behave.
 - How we believe determines how we behave.
 - How much Word vs. World is in us determines what we believe.
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- **John 17:15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

- **1Cor 5:9-10** I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
- These show that we are in the world and must be around sin so as to be witnesses. But this can get into us especially over time.
- It is extremely vital to the health of our soul. If we are constantly being fed the stuff of the world, eventually we will become the world. Garbage in = garbage out.
- Over time, our conscience can be seared. We must saturate ourselves in the Word of God to not allow the blatant disregard for God to penetrate into our lives.
- Just because we have to be in the world does not mean we should saturate ourselves with the world.

Going back to Ephesians 5:

Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word

- The church is made up of those already saved. As we covered last week, they have already been made perfect. So what is happening?

This has to do with sanctification

Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- We have been and are being sanctified.

Jesus washes the Disciple's Feet

John 13:3-17 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and **began to wash the disciples' feet**, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. **And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"** ⁷ **Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."** ⁸ **Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, **"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."** ⁹ Simon **Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"** ¹⁰ **Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."** ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.** ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- We are bathed – saved – so we are already clean, we just need our feet cleaned – we need the filth of the world removed from us – SANCTIFICATION.

What does Hebrews say?

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full

assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- After the altar, acknowledging the blood of Christ – no sin, no shame – we now wash our hands and feet.
- The Word. This is why we preach at church. It's why we read our Bibles. It's why we study and meditate on the Scriptures.

In Colossians 3 Paul urges us to Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.