

Fueling Station 7:

Key cleansing and refining



Jesus washing His disciples feet was more about sin than an example of servant humility! A true servant/disciple deals with sin daily and helps others run a faithful race and remain accountable to pleasing God.

“He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also 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, but not every one of you.””

John 13:6-10 ESV

\*“no share” is an important understanding. This is actually very significant to the “race to the kingdom” theology. Look at this verse to see a comparison:

“And He said, “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them.”

Luke 15:11-12 NASB1995

\*This is a reference to inheritance. Jesus was actually teaching His disciples the necessity of cleansing our sins daily. If you want to be His disciple and receive the privilege and reward or “share” of a follower of Christ, you must let Him deal with your daily “dirt” from the world. In fact if the dirt/sin on our feet goes unchecked it climbs its way up and defiles our garments and this becomes a more serious issue.(see Garment theology)

The absolute sure way we know that Jesus was teaching about sin was his comment “you are clean, but not everyone of you”. This was a reference to Judas never having truly been cleansed in his heart. His betrayal for money proved that.

\*Even Jesus removing His outer garment before washing their feet has a more profound meaning, it is symbolic for uncovering nakedness and shame.

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

James 1:12-15 ESV

\*If we don’t keep “washing” one another’s feet, sin grows and defiles our the garment of our heart!

Peter finally did understand the washing of his feet:

“who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

1 Peter 3:20-21 NASB1995

\*There is no confusing the fact that Peter now understood the symbolic nature of water. Just like physical water is used to remove dirt or even destroy like a flood, the very words of God are the “water” that renews and cleanses our minds and hearts. The larger understanding in Noahs day is if only they would have “washed one another’s feet” the gentle water massage would not have turned into a destructive “flood”.

“so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”

Ephesians 5:26-27 NASB1995

\*The benefit of cleansing with the word of God!

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

John 15:3 NASB1995

The concept of “cleansing” and “washing” in the ancient of days:

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

Psalms 51:2, 10, 17 ESV

“On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.”

Zechariah 13:1 ESV

“But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.”

Malachi 3:2 ESV

The same concept is made now with “fire”:

“to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

1 Peter 1:4, 7 NASB1995

\*Both concepts are seen here with the importance of growing in our faith. The “fiery” trials that were meant to “refine” us and give us an inheritance that is being kept for those “found” worthy. Water and fire go hand in hand or in this case “foot in foot” in the race to the kingdom!

This “fire” or refining promise is also found in the ancient of days:

“As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.”

## Genesis 15:12-17 ESV

However, there was an important difference in the blood oath that God made with Abraham in Genesis 15. When the evening came, God appeared in the form of a “smoking fire pot and flaming torch [that] passed between the pieces” (Genesis 15:17). But Abraham had fallen “into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him” (verse 12). Thus, God alone passed through the pieces of dead animals, and the covenant was sealed by God alone. Nothing depended on Abraham. Everything depended on God, who promised to be faithful to His covenant. “When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself” (Hebrews 6:13-18). Abraham and his descendants could trust, count on, and believe in everything God promised.

“But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.”

Malachi 3:2-3 ESV

\*God does not change, His desires for His people do not change, His warnings don’t change, and His need for divine loving discipline does not change!

Jesus promised to judge our works of faith through fire:

“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 ESV

\*This “Day” we believe to be in two parts:

1) Life on earth with the Holy Spirit’s fire:

“And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.”

Acts 2:3 ESV

“John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.””

Luke 3:16-17 ESV

### What is the Holy Spirits ministry:?

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:”

John 16:7-8 ESV

\*The convicting “fire” of the Spirit to confess and repent of sin, live righteous lives, and prepare for the Judges return was the intended purpose to prepare a chaste bride for Christ! The warnings to the church are to participate by walking in the Spirit and not the grieve the Spirit by walking in the flesh!

2)The Great Tribulation was meant for the finishing refinement and cleansing of the earth and all people including the house of God. The seal, trumpet, and bowl judgements were meant for the sole purpose of bringing people to repentance before God, reaping and sowing because God will not be mocked, and ridding the earth of Satans rulership!

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:9, 13-14 ESV

\*Note: washing and refining go hand in hand! The blood of the Lamb here signifies the suffering that was needed to do the job!

The instruction given to the church of Laodicea is an important understanding of how we were meant to offer ourselves as a scapegoat for the refining fires:

“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.”

Revelation 3:18 ESV

The ultimate key to “fire” is to learn obedience:

“Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,”

Hebrews 5:8-9 ESV

\*This shows the importance of going through our “testing” in the wilderness of trials to “enter” our rest. This is what the entire book of Hebrews is explaining to the church. This is the “race” to the kingdom!

If we have not “learned to obey”, we cannot enter our rest and must continue going through the fire. This significantly helps us understand “hell” in the scripture warnings.

Questions for reflection:

1. Servant humility is important to God, how is this portrayed in the act of washing someone’s feet?
2. Probably the greatest act of humility to God is submitting to His commands in how we are to live a life pleasing to Him. How does the true message of “washing feet” reflect this?
3. Baptism with water is also an important symbolism. What is the true meaning behind being “immersed” in water?
4. Have you every experienced how a “silversmith” purifies precious metals? Reflect on that process and discuss how God performs the same process with us? What is His purposes behind it?

\*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!