**Foot Washing**

**John 13:1-17**

**Introduction:**

I. Foot washing is mentioned in both Testaments (Gen. 19:2; 1 Tim. 5:9-10)

!!. Foot washing services, as acts of worship, are held by some religious groups.

A. Did Jesus institute foot washing as an act of worship, like the Lord’s Supper?

B. Did the early church practice foot washing as an act of worship?

III. A careful look at our text will show that Jesus used foot washing to teach his disciples two lessons:

**Discussion:**

**I. The Disciples Needed to Learn Hospitality.**

A. The disciples needed their feet washed (vv. 8-10).

B. Washing another’s feet was an act of hospitality, not worship.

1. In the Old Testament (Gen. 18:3-5 - Abraham; 19:2; 24:32; 43:24; 1Sam. 25:41)

2. In the New Testament (1 Tim. 5:9, 10)

C. Washing another’s feet was not a part of the New Testament church’s worship.

1. They met for the Lord’s supper and other acts of worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18ff)

2. They were told they “ought” to do many things other than worship (cf. v.14; Eph.

5:28; 1John 3:16; 4:11).

**II. The Disciples Needed to Learn Humility.**

A. The same evening they were arguing over who should be the greatest in the kingdom

(Lk. 22:24-27)

B. Jesus uses this object lesson to teach them humility – not worship (vv. 13-16).

C. Jesus used various means to teach humility.

1. Little children (Matt. 18:1-4)

2. Parables (cf. Lk. 14:7-11; 18:9-14)

3. His own examples (Phil. 2:3-8).

D. Pride is such a destructive sin (cf. Prov. 16:18-19)

1. Leads to other sins (1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:2; 1 Tim. 6:3,4)

2. Hinders genuine obedience

3. Hinders confession and correction of sin.

**Conclusion:**

A. Let us be humble enough to serve in the “little things” of life.

B. Let us be humble enough to perform any needful act of hospitality daily.

C. Let us be humble enough to obey God in all things – even the simple plan of salvation.