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Friday, December 9, 2016 Daily Devotional - Clean Feet, Clean Heart

DECEMBER 09TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Friday, December 9, 2016 Daily Devotional - Clean Feet, Clean Heart

John 13:3-15

Israel can be a dusty place, and sandaled feet get filthy walking to and fro. In ancient times, a person entering a home removed his sandals and cleaned his feet. Or if the homeowners were wealthy, servants would do the washing. This distasteful but necessary task fell to the worker of lowest position in the household.

Imagine the disciples' surprise when the Son of God put Himself in the role of a lowly servant and knelt to wash their feet. The need for such a service was great, as they had been traveling for some time. But not one of them offered to do it.

Jesus did more than fill a need; He offered an object lesson. As He explained, "I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you" ([John 13:15](#)). Some churches have incorrectly interpreted this as a command to make foot washing an ordinance. But it's possible to perform a ritual without contemplating the significance of Christ's actions.

In fact, the washing isn't the main point—it's the attitude that counts, not the act. Jesus desires that we be willing to humble ourselves to serve others. He is looking for men and women who will ignore pride, position, and power in order to do whatever must be done, wherever it needs doing, and for whoever requires assistance.

Jesus performed His greatest and most humble acts of service within 24 hours of each other. He washed dirty feet by using hands that would then be pierced by nails. The message here is that every task God gives us is important to His kingdom.

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Thursday, December 8, 2016 Daily Devotional - The Pattern for Servanthood

DECEMBER 08TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Thursday, December 8, 2016 Daily Devotional - The Pattern for Servanthood

[Matthew 20:25-28](#)

In the world's thinking, great men are the ones with authority, prominence, and power. Though Jesus Christ had all that, He laid it aside to become a servant ([Isaiah 42:1](#)).

Jesus gave Himself completely to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption, even though the beneficiaries—namely, each of us—were undeserving. God, who is holy and righteous, has “eyes ... too pure to approve evil, and [He] can not look on wickedness with favor” ([Habakkuk 1:13](#)). But all of humanity is stained by wrongdoing ([Romans 3:23](#)); everybody is born captive to the desires of the flesh ([Romans 6:16-18](#)). When people claim to be living on their own terms, they are actually serving whatever their human nature craves. The penalty for that false sense of liberty is death ([Romans 6:23](#)).

Jesus' ultimate act of service was to give His life as a ransom for many ([Matthew 20:28](#)). The word ransom describes the price paid to set a slave free—Christ voluntarily purchased our liberation. There was only one way our holy God could remove our guilt yet remain true to His own law: Someone sinless had to pay our sin debt for us.

Jesus' sacrifice spared us the penalty we deserve. Instead, we receive the gift of grace and have been declared no longer guilty. Moreover, we are elevated from slaves to sons and daughters of the Almighty!

Jesus served the Father's purpose faithfully. He gave up His righteousness to carry the weight of all our wickedness—and endured a crushing separation from His Father. To meet our needs, the Savior held nothing of Himself back and thereby set a powerful example of servanthood for us to follow.

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Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Daily Devotional - Equipped to Do His Will

DECEMBER 07TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 Daily Devotional - Equipped to Do His Will

Exodus 3:1-14

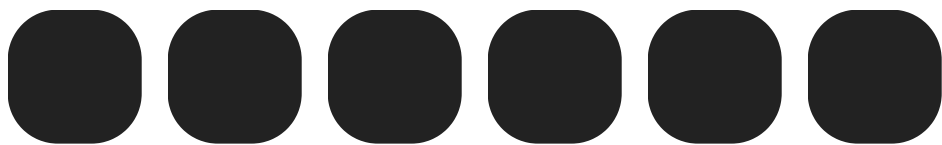
I've met people who know the Lord has called them to do something, but they are so focused on their perceived lack of ability that they keep telling Him, "I just can't." Did you realize this is a form of rebellion? It amounts to telling God that He isn't powerful enough to equip you—and that His will being done on this earth depends upon your natural skills.

On being called to lead the Israelites out of slavery, Moses complained that he was the wrong person for the job and offered an excuse of not being a good speaker (Ex. 4:10). God's response underscores that not only was He more than able to equip His chosen leader, but He also planned to accomplish His purposes with or without Moses.

The Lord is the one who gives us the ability to live within His will. It's a divine promise: If we believe Him and move forward in obedience, He'll show us what we're to do and then will energize us to get it done. [Philippians 2:13](#) says that God Himself "is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." There's nothing to fear: You never have to take on His work in your own strength, and He won't ask you to do anything that He will not enable you to carry out. The Father is committed to equipping His children to do whatever He asks.

As a follower of Christ, you have a personal responsibility—first, to say yes when God calls, and second, to allow Him to achieve His purposes through your life. He won't let you down. Watching Him work through you will strengthen your faith and further the process of conforming you to His Son's image.

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Tuesday, December 6, 2016 Daily Devotional - How to Deal with Unforgiveness

DECEMBER 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 Daily Devotional - How to Deal with Unforgiveness

[Matthew 18:21-22](#)

God's Word clearly teaches that we're to forgive those who hurt us. So let's identify practical ways to confront the matter of unforgiveness head-on. You may want to keep this list in your Bible or some other handy place for easy review.

Take it seriously. Unforgiveness is an issue that shouldn't be dismissed.

Assume full responsibility. Don't blame anyone for your feelings or actions.

Confess it honestly. Be specific and direct with God about what you feel, and acknowledge that unforgiveness is sin. Don't "soften" the matter or let yourself off the

hook.

Lay down your anger. Unless you deal with your resentment, bitterness can re-enter your life later on.

Pray for the other person. This may feel impossible or unnatural, but do it anyway. Praying is a choice to act lovingly, regardless of how you are treated. This will impact your relationship with that individual—and your outlook.

Ask that individual to forgive you. If the other person knows that you've been harboring bitterness, you need to ask for his or her forgiveness.

Do something nice for that person. Let a loving gesture demonstrate your desire to restore the relationship.

Don't allow Satan to throw you back into unforgiveness. Once the matter is resolved, watch out for stray thoughts that could stir up memories of how the other person hurt you.

This process isn't easy, but it works. If you go through these steps every time you are hurt, God will truly work miracles in your relationships.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 06TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Monday, December 5, 2016 Daily Devotional - Consequences of Unforgiveness

DECEMBER 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Monday, December 5, 2016 Daily Devotional - Consequences of Unforgiveness

Hebrews 12:14-15

Scripture stresses the importance of pardoning those who have offended us. While it may feel natural to pull away from hurtful people, refusing to forgive has consequences far worse than the pain of being wronged. Unforgiveness ...

Harms family interactions. Have you ever tried to maintain a growing relationship with an individual who's rooted in bitterness? You can't do it, because that person is fixated on unhealthy feelings about someone else. Moreover, it's hard to spend time with anyone consumed by resentment, because such people simply cease being likable.

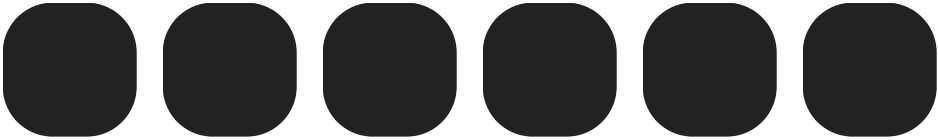
Hinders prayer life. Unforgiveness is sin, and unconfessed sin creates "static" in a believer's relationship with God. So it's important to forgive others before prayer or worship ([Matt. 5:23-24](#)).

Damages one's personal witness. The highlight of your testimony is salvation, which centers around the truth that the Lord has forgiven all your sins. How can you stress the importance of this if your listener can't see even a hint of forgiveness in your own life?

Thwarts spiritual growth. God will not bless sinful actions. And so, if you are living a life mired in unforgiveness, you cannot expect Him to shower you with His blessings. By persisting in disobedience, you disrupt intimate fellowship with the Lord and put yourself in a dangerous position.

Is there anyone you need to forgive today? Don't let another day pass without granting that forgiveness. There is more at stake than you may have realized.

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