

FOOT WASHING

Before we get into the actual Feast of Passover, we must first look at an incredible blessing that Yeshua pointed us to if we are true servants of Yah. Yeshua and His disciples participated in a foot washing ceremony immediately before the Last Supper". Yeshua used His washing of the disciples feet as an example of what true servants do when they represent the King Of Kings. Yeshua made it clear that when you do Yah's work "**you are blessed**", (John 13:17). He was referring to the serving of one another, and as an example, He washed the disciples feet prior to taking part in the supper. The blessing doesn't come from the physical washing of ones feet, it comes from the servanthood of Yah. The foot washing is symbolic, it reminds all of us we are to be servants, not rulers and dictators.

It was customary in those days to provide a basin of water for people to wash their feet in, upon entering a house. On special occasion's one of the family members would wash your feet for you upon entry. It was usually the job of the youngest member of the family. It was rare or even unheard of for the master of the house to wash ones feet upon entering.

In the Book of John we see the Master Yeshua Himself washing the feet of His disciples, why?

The Seder (seder meaning "order" in Hebrew), service is divided into four parts. This separates the Passover meal from all other meals during the year. These four parts are:

- 1) **sanctification**
- 2) **deliverance**
- 3) **redemption**
- 4) **salvation**

The four cups of wine used during the Seder meal are divided into these four categories. Foot washing is part of the first cup of sanctification process associated with the Seder meal. In order to properly understand exactly what Yeshua did when He washed the feet of His talmidim we need to understand a little more about exactly what the leader of the Seder did. The leader of the Passover Seder traditionally wears a white garment called a kittel. Yeshua was the leader of the Passover Seder, and He removed His garment of honor, then began to wash the disciples feet. This was a major statement made in the presence of all assembled, in regards to being humble before Adonai. When He did this He made a very clear statement without having to use words. Servanthood is the key to being a child of the Most High. Anyone who has ever participated in a foot washing experience at Passover knows just how humbling it really is. It's one of those things in life you must experience to appreciate.

This simple but powerful idea is not normally taught or even talked about in Christendom. It is simply another one of many things Christians have no understanding of. The following scriptures explain exactly what Yeshua did with His disciples on the evening of the Last supper. All those who do likewise are blessed for doing so. It is a very humbling experience I can assure you.

Yeshua and His disciples probably enjoyed their last meal and maybe even seder service together at a triclinium table. This was a special U-shaped table used for special occasions.

This head table was talked about in the gospels and by Josephus. Assembling together around this table was done in a specific manner. Those who sat at it sat in a special pecking order you might say. The most important person would sit a couple seats in on the left hand side, and his closest friend would sit next to him on his right side, the outside. It was set up this way so that if someone entered the room to attack the honoured guest (let's say it was a Rabbi), the person next to him, his best and most trusted friend, would take his sword and protect Him. Around the table to the far right end the people sat in order of their importance. The person on the farthest right was the one who washed the feet of those at the table when they came in to sit and eat. This person often had a sword at his side also. In the case of Yeshua's last supper we know that John sat next to Him. Peter sat at the far end of the table and was supposed to wash everyone's feet. He also brandished a sword.

Breaking Bread together

Bread represented life. Breaking bread always represented forgiveness, restitution, and reconciliation. So when someone said they wanted to break bread with you, it meant they loved you and wanted to reconcile with you. They wanted to restore their relationship with you.

It was tradition for the person at the table to take the bread of the meal, break it and pass it on to the person to their left.

Yeshua probably ate the Last Supper just before the sun went down and had the Seder service immediately afterwards, of this we are not sure. If He ate the seder service with them He would not have drank from the cup of redemption. He said He will only do so when He returns for the wedding supper of the lamb.

In first century times you never ate with your left hand. It was considered your dirty hand. You always ate using your right hand. There was only one exception to that tradition and that was when you ate bread. You would hold the bread with both hands. This was done because bread represented the torah, it was the bread of life and was always treated with great respect. When Yeshua said "*you shall not live on bread alone*" in Matt. 4:4, it would have been a very strange statement, considering that most of the people ate bread and vegetables alone. Yeshua was pointing them to the torah, which is the bread of life. **Deut. 8:3** "*He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.*"

These people could rarely afford meat, that's why they called bread the bread of life, symbolic of the torah. Yeshua was connecting the torah with the bread of life. Very few of those poor people ever had the opportunity to eat meat. That is why Yeshua specifically said you will eat of the lamb on this occasion. He was putting emphasis on this celebration by insisting they eat meat during the celebration, just like the rich. They were considered His Priests and were commanded to eat meat at the time of the Passover assembly.

JOHN 13:1-20

1 Now **before the Feast of the Passover**, Yeshua knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,

3 Yeshua, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from Elohim, and was going back to Elohim,

4 rose from the supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself about.

5 **Then 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 And so He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Messiah, do You wash my feet?"

7 Yeshua answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you shall understand hereafter."

8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Yeshua answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Yeshua, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

10 Yeshua said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

12 And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

13 You call Me Teacher and Master; and you are right, for so I am.

14 If I then, the Messiah and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 **For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.**

16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

17 **If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.**

18 I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me."

19 From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.

20 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Him who sent Me"

Those who truly want to do as Yeshua did, should be aware that this includes serving one another, which is symbolically washing the feet of those brothers and sisters in the body of Believers.

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