

“He Poured Water into a Basin”

It was just before the Passover Feast, and Jesus had a very short time to live. He had taught so much to those who had followed Him, yet found Himself wanting them to learn more.

He would show them “the full extent of his love” with His death, but before that, He had one more lesson to teach them.

John 13:3-5 tells us:

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, **he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet**, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

Jesus was showing His apostles humility. He was their Lord, yet he had humbled Himself to become their servant. They were to do the same. The host was responsible for washing the feet of his guests, yet Jesus had assumed that responsibility. When He ascended to the Father, they should assume their responsibility – service to others.

Sometime later, after Jesus had been betrayed and arrested, He is being questioned by Pilate, a man who had the power to let Him go. Pilate cannot find anything wrong with Jesus – he is determined to dismiss Jesus and send Him on His way. But the people are insistent. Jesus must die. Although he had the power to release Jesus, and due to the lack of evidence of a crime had the responsibility to free Him, what did Pilate do?

Here’s what Matthew tells us in **Matthew 27:24**:

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he **took water and washed his hands** in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

Pilate refused to take responsibility for Jesus death. That responsibility was washed away in a basin of water in front of those calling for Jesus’ crucifixion. “Let His blood be on us and on our children” was their cry. I find it interesting that in **Acts 5:28**, these same people blamed Peter and John for being determined to “make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

Two basins of water; two very different lessons. Jesus took the responsibility of washing his apostles’ feet and showing their need to serve others. Pilate “washed his hands” of the responsibility he had to release Jesus. However, in doing so, he set in motion Jesus’ greatest act of humility and service to others: His death.