

(Luke 22:21-30; John 13:3-17)

Luke 22

²¹But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²²The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." ²³They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

John 13:3-17

³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus knew the purpose of His coming on earth; He also knew who is going to play what part in His purpose. Jesus was likewise aware who was going to betray Him, but yet He was at peace for the purpose was to help save man and glorify God.

Time in this world depends the positioning of the Sun and the earth and the atomic vibrations but in the Spiritual world, Man's heart is the time machine. His heart's condition defines his position in relation to God and to His promises. If his heart is humble and ready to accept God and His Word, then he comes closer to God and to receiving His promises. But if his heart is stubborn and hard, then he is far away from God and His promises and closer to the wrath of God. Irrespective at which end he is, God may still use him for His glory. Even at the far end God may use him, like God used Pharaoh during the time of Moses.

Romans 9

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose,

that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

So God did harden the heart of Pharaoh so that God could show His glory? The answer is YES.

Was God unjust to Pharaoh? The answer is NO.

You should understand that in the start Pharaoh's heart was already hard towards God.

Exodus 3

¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

What God did is only hardened it further. God could have had mercy on Pharaoh and soften his heart by His mercy. But showing mercy or not is God's choice, He chooses on whom He will have mercy or on whom He will not, for He already know if the person will repent or not.

Hebrews 4

¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Jesus was the Word of God and He too split the people of the world. He became the biggest stumbling block to all mankind (*especially the people called by God*). You either have to accept Him or reject Him, but you can not ignore Him.

Luke 2

*³⁴ And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, **Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;***

If you keep to the right of the Stumbling Block you will be lifted up and used for God's glory; if you keep to the left you may still be used for God's glory through your destruction.

Judas kept to the left and God used him and his destruction became a remembrance for ever. Judas was called by Jesus to become one of His Apostles and he rejected it for a few coins of silver. The chance to receive the treasured of all eternity; treasures that will last for ever were rejected for a minuscule treasure of this world which either way does not last. This mistake which Judas made even today a lot of us still do it.

We were not given the Word of God or the Gospel (*Good News of Salvation*) just by chance. It's because God has called us that we have received it. There are many in this world that will die without knowing Jesus or God; it is God's mercy and grace that we received His Word so that we can become Christians (*followers of Christ not of any church or ministry, but the one and only Christ and His Church set by Him*).

In this world most of us have great plans and want to be great people and want to be on the top, but Jesus tells us we need to be the people who are not served but who serve. Jesus Himself came to serve. Did Jesus tell us to be like beggars, people always at the last? No.

God called His people Israel which means 'Prince of God'. If God calls His people Prince and Princess then why does Jesus tell us to serve? Do not we need to be served?

You will understand this when you understand the purpose of creation [Read – Solid Food – Creations].

As you know Satan was a very beautiful creation of God. He is a spirit being like the other Angels. If Satan was spirit than what caused his downfall? It could not be another spirit?

When God created Satan, he was decorated with beautiful things of the Heavens (*precious stones*). Satan saw these things were good on him and made a difference for him, so he wanted more and more. Wanting more of good things is not bad, but having no control over that want is bad. This want without control is called greed. This greed and over decoration lead to pride and that led to him speaking out and over his capacity, which was the lust of the tongue. When things started getting bad for him started conspiring against others which were against him or even those who were not. It was this deceit that made him to tempt man to sin and also get one third of the Angels to be thrown down from the Heavens.

Ezekiel 28 [NIV]

¹ *The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:*

*" 'In the pride of your heart
you say, "I am a god;
I sit on the throne of a god
in the heart of the seas."
But you are a man and not a god,
though you think you are as wise as a god.*

⁴ *By your wisdom and understanding
you have gained wealth for yourself
and amassed gold and silver
in your treasuries.*

⁵ *By your great skill in trading
you have increased your wealth,
and because of your wealth
your heart has grown proud.*

⁶ *"Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
" 'Because you think you are wise,
as wise as a god,*

⁷ *I am going to bring foreigners against you,
the most ruthless of nations;
they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom
and pierce your shining splendor.*

⁸ *They will bring you down to the pit,
and you will die a violent death
in the heart of the seas.*

¹⁵ *You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.*

¹⁶ *Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.*

¹⁸ *By your many sins and dishonest trade
you have desecrated your sanctuaries.*

*So I made a fire come out from you,
and it consumed you,
and I reduced you to ashes on the ground
in the sight of all who were watching.*

¹⁹ *All the nations who knew you
are appalled at you;
you have come to a horrible end
and will be no more.' "*

All these greed, pride, lust of the tongue, deceit etc... are diseases of the spirit. Like our natural body gets diseased and thus becomes weak and even dies, so also these spiritual diseases infect and spread in our spirit and weakens it and leads to death. These diseases are contagious and can be passed from one spirit to another which is not strong.

The fallen angels are infected with these diseases and their main aim is to infect all mankind with the same so that mankind which was made weaker that the Angels dies the spiritual death quickly.

The main thing that the Lord wants us to do in order to receive the great things set for us in Heaven is to overcome the diseases. To overcome the greatest disease which is greed; is service with humility unto the weaker and less fortunate, the people below you.

Therefore the Lord said that we should be humble and serve others who are unfortunate, knowing that we will be rulers' on the day of our Salvation.

Luke 22

²⁶ *But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.*

With regards to the washing of the feet of the Apostles; why did Jesus only wash their feet? Was it just to show them about how to serve, was there more to it?

Jesus did show them how to humble them selves and serve others but the main thing was more spiritual than natural.

In the times during Jesus and before Jesus (*from the time of Moses*), a person (*Priest*) needed to wash their hands and feet before they enter the Tabernacle, for this a wash basin was made available at the entrance.

Exodus 30

¹⁷ *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. ²⁰ Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting an offering made to the LORD by fire, ²¹ they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come."*

Even when a person entered any place that was clean or holy, they would leave their foot-ware outside and even wash their feet at the door step before entering. This was to get rid of all the dust and mud that they collected while on their journey.

Washing of the dirt of the hands represents giving up the sinful doings in one's life and washing of the feet represents forgiveness of sins.

Unless our feet are washed by Jesus (*sins are forgiven*) we will have nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Peter did not realize what Jesus was doing and asked his head to be washed too.

One thing you will notice Jesus did not wash their hands, washing of hands is what we ourselves need to do. Unless we do not repent and give up our sinful way of living, the Lord will not forgive us of our sins. He may lead us to repentance but repenting is what we need to do. The Apostles had sat to eat at the table for the Passover, so as a custom and hygiene they had already washed their hands to eat. They were following Jesus and had already given up the worldly and sinful way of living.

Jesus knew what was going to happen to them and what was in store for them very soon. They were to receive the Holy Spirit, so He had to prepare them to enter the most Holy Place and as a gesture Jesus washed their feet.

The same we are also told to do, it does not mean that we literally need to wash others feet but we need to get the forgiveness of others for their sins. This we do by first getting them to repent and to give up their sinful way of living. This does not mean only the new people who do not know Jesus, or have not accepted Jesus, or are not in-Christ. It also includes our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Luke 17

³*So watch yourselves.*

"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

John 20

²¹*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* ²²*And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

By getting the forgiveness of others for their sins and making them a part of Christ we receive great rewards in Heaven.