

**There is Hope Radio**  
**Changing a Community via Foot Washing**  
**PreacherRichD**

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Your radio host is the Let's Get Real PreacherRichD of Creating Futures.

Today's podcast is going to be different than my other podcasts and my radio shows that I do on a weekly basis because unlike my other shows this will not be scripted. The reason I normally script my radio shows, my broadcast, is because having only 13 minutes to cover a topic is very, extremely actually, hard for me to be able to do to stay within that 13 minute mark. So, I normally do scripting so that I can kind of stay within that time frame. And so today will not be a scripted show. I hopefully still stay in the time frame, still get prayer in, be able to cover everything that I want to cover, but I wanted to speak from my heart today.

I'm going to be covering a topic that's not normally covered. I want to be covering a topic that you might think is crazy. I'm going to share a concept that you may think is crazy. Well I've just set you all up to think I'm probably crazy and nuts, but we'll see what you think after you listen to the show.

The topic is going to be change a community via foot washing. I absolutely believe in the power of foot washing. Yes, I know that sounds strange since the ordinance of foot washing isn't done by most churches or a few churches few denominations that do it but I think there's something powerful that comes from foot washing and I'll explain why in some personal experience I've had myself and just the concept itself a foot washing.

So I think most who are listening understand the concept of foot washing when it comes to Jesus. That Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and interestingly enough he washed the feet of Peter who would deny him later on and he washed the feet of Judas who would betray him. But I want you to think about something, that Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples and the only one that was at the cross that we can see in scripture was John. So the truth is that Jesus humbled himself and washed the feet of all his disciples but there's only one that was there during his most trying time. So you say well what value is foot washing? Well, you have to remember what the purpose of foot washing was. Jesus washed the disciples feet to set an example, an example of what it is to be humble. He set an example of servanthood leadership. He set an example of showing ultimate sacrificial love to those who may deny you, who disrespect you, who betray you, those who are against you. To humble yourself and wash their feet, that's the ultimate sacrifice. I would say the disciples, even though they may not have been at the time dramatically changed by the washing of their feet, they certainly were transformed by Jesus humility and then brought humility into their own lives.

So I believe that foot washing can change the lives of individuals and actually can change the community. I'm going to talk about personally how foot washing changed my own life. But before I do that I guess I need to make it clear I'm not saying that everyone has to do foot washing. I'm not saying church has to implement a foot washing ceremony. I just want to share some concepts to get you thinking and how I believe that foot washing can change a community.

So I'm going to share from my own personal experience. One of the churches that I came from was a church that believed in the ordinance of foot washing. Listen foot washing is more than washing dirty feet. Actually some will use a very lame argument against the concept of foot washing because they'll say foot washing is about washing dirty feet. We all have to be truthful and acknowledge Jesus was doing much more than washing dirty feet. So the argument we don't have to wash feet now because we don't walk in sandals is a pretty lame argument against foot washing.

Anyways I want to share my own experiences. One experience was I was in a leadership role in a church and there was a conflict between myself and a long-term elder. I personally believe that the elder was very prideful but my interaction with them was also in a wrong manner and I allowed them to offend me by their actions. I know they were offended by my actions and so both of us kind of stayed away from each other, didn't interact with each other because we didn't want more conflict. Honestly this elder kind of exploded on me, which an elder probably should not do, you know very unhealthy behavior. I didn't explode back but I got very offended and I wanted nothing to do with that elder and yet we both were leaders in leadership roles and had to work together. One time when there was a foot washing ceremony the Lord led me to ask this elder if I could wash his feet because God told me I needed to humble myself before him and honor him in his role, in his position, and he agreed to allow me to do that. So I got on my knees and I washed his feet and I started praying over him I asked for forgiveness on my part and as it turned out I apologized to him and he apologized to me and the end result of that foot washing is we became very close friends. In fact I saw him as a father to me and his wife as a mother to me and they treated me as part of their family, and there's a powerful story of what happened over the years between me and that couple out of that foot washing ceremony> So I believe there is power in the midst of a foot washing.

The second experience I had I won't go into all the details just because of time I want to make sure I get enough time in here to be able to share more principles and to be able to do some praying but this was a powerful experience for me personally in a foot washing in the church. It was the policy at this church that men washed men's feet and women washed women's feet. There was a day at church and then it was going to be the foot washing ceremony and so I was at that church knowing it was going to be a day of a foot washing but I was very discouraged about some things in my past, felt some guilt. I felt some shame. I guess I could say I was feeling some condemnation. Out of nowhere three women came up to me and they said "God specifically spoke to all three of us to wash your feet." Now again, in that church that would be strange, that would be weird, I wanted to tell, in fact I did tell them, "I don't think that'd be appropriate." But they were adamant, all three of these were in some type of leadership role in the church and they said "But God told us that we are to wash your feet. Father God has heard the cry of your heart". So when they said Father God

has heard the cry of your heart, I had to believe that was God so I allowed them to wash my feet and something dramatically changed in my life on that day. Maybe sometime I'll do a broadcast on what took place there because it's pretty significant what took place.

Those are two experiences I personally had through foot washing so I believe that God can use foot washing to accomplish His goal. I just want to say something. This message is specifically in regards to the community of Fairfield Bay but it's also communities across America. Here's what I want to share. In Fairfield Bay and across America there are individuals who have pride are narcissistic in their behavior, they are self-righteous. Then there are individuals that have unforgiveness, bitterness, and spite, vengeance toward those individuals because the hateful mean things they have done. I want to say something. If you have those kind of mindsets it is very hard to hold on to them if you're washing each other's feet. Some of you're going to think of individuals that you know that fit into both those categories and you think there's no way that there could ever be a foot washing between them> But I want you to just think about something. Imagine if they were humble enough to wash each other's feet. I know you say it's impossible it's never going to happen. I would agree it's overall impossible but I just want you to dream a little bit. I just want you to think a little bit. I just want you to imagine with me what if these 'enemies' were convicted by God, risked it, and washed the feet of each other. They would throw a monkey wrench into the camp of Satan and I believe it could bring healing into the community of Fairfield Bay. It could be bring healing in the community that you live in if those individuals actually humbled their self and were to wash each other's feet. But of course what's the odds of that happening? I think that we all agree the odds are very minimal that this would ever happen.

But you know what we can do? We can stand in the gap, we can pray for those individuals. Rather they bend their knee to each other in a Christlike manner physically in foot washing or not, it certainly could happen that they could humble themselves before each other and ask forgiveness between each other. God can certainly do that. We see Apostle Paul that was persecuting Christians having Christians murdered, persecuted, and what did he do? He bended his knee and became a servant of God and to be used in a mighty way. I am sure there are individuals that he at that time washed the feet of to show his repentance before them.

So I want to get you to imagine with me. How about you set the example That you set the example. Somebody that's been hateful, disrespectful to you, attacked you personally, they attacked you publicly, they spoke half-truths and lies about you. You have some bitterness in your heart, you have some wounding. What if you reached out to that person saying God is convicting me to wash your feet. They would think you're weirdo, they would think you're strange, but what would happen if you did it. Here's what I know. Whether they agreed to or not there would be a change in your heart. What if you said "you know what, they may not let me wash their feet but I can pray for them, I can stand in the gap for them, I can be one that loves on them in spite of what they've done. It certainly would change your heart. If they are not, but you're willing to do it, whether they would agree to a foot washing or not, it could change their heart.

Now the last thing I want to say is some you are going to say "well this can happen spiritually ,it doesn't have to happen in the physical realm." Now some of you're saying that because you don't want to wash somebody's feet. You do not want somebody to wash your

feet. I agree it could happen spiritually but I have learned something over the years. When we take certain principles and we physically apply them they have power and in some ways they have greater power than anything we can do 'in a spiritual way. Just one example is going to the altar and repentance. How many know that that there are altar calls and many people don't go the altar call. That is because they're not humble enough. They're too embarrassed to go the altar. So what is their excuse? What do they say. "Well God can work in the pew without me going to the altar". God can absolutely work in the pew without you going to the altar> But here's the truth of the matter of what I've seen over the years is that those who go to the altar are more likely to get delivered, more likely to get set free, more likely to experience a miracle than somebody sitting in the pew, because there's something about getting out of that pew, walking to that altar. The steps you take and what you do. One thing you do is you let the devil know I'm making a commitment to repent, I'm making a commitment to walk out in faith. When you're just sitting in the pew there, the devil can't read your mind but he just reads your actions.

Or what about those who say you know I can worship God at my home just as much at church. Absolutely true, you can, but there's something that happens when you go to church instead of sitting in the home. I think all of you understand what I'm saying. So something can happen by the washing of feet that cannot happen by just saying well I'm just gonna in my own mind forgive that person or apologize that person in my mind.

I have a question for you. As I end this broadcast is there any takers? Is there any takers out there? Anyone willing to be humble enough to wash the feet of another or to allow another to wash your feet? Any brave souls out there? I'm more than willing to be the first one. If you have a disdain for me, you have something against me, I am more than willing to bow my knee before you and wash your feet. Hey, before I do it, you can walk through a pig pen first, that's okay with me. I'm more than willing to wash your feet and bow myself before you. If you have something against me I want to do whatever I can to make amends. if I need to make amends.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father I don't know who's listening. I don't know who thinks I'm nuts and crazy to bring up this foot washing thing. But Lord God I believe that a community could be transformed if some enemies would wash the feet of each other and so Lord who's listening now. I'm talking about Fairfield Bay. There's a lot of drama on Fairfield Bay. There's a lot of hatred going on. There's a lot of slander going on. There's a lot of things that's wounded people. There's a lot of lies, false half-truths. There's people who have been wounded, attacking each other. I would pray you'd bring conviction on some of those individuals and they would physically wash the feet, wash the feet of each other. I know that's a miracle. But boy what a miracle would take place if that would happen. What a move of God could happen. So Lord, would you bring some humility in some individuals. Since this podcast is going out not only just in Fairfield Bay, not only in Arkansas, but this is going throughout America, who knows where this podcast will be heard, I would pray that there would be some people willing to humble themselves and say I am going to physically wash your feet. If Jesus King of Kings Lord of Lords can wash the feet of individuals who would deny him, who would betray him, who would not be there as His hanging on the cross, then we certainly should be able to humble ourselves to wash the feet of some individuals and see what God can do to change a heart. Lord I pray this message would

Speak to someone out there. That it would speak to a few people out there, and that we could see something miraculous take place. So Lord who are you speaking to, who are you convicting? Maybe it is just spiritual foot washing, that really right now you're speaking to them and they need to get on their knees and imagine washing the feet of another. There may be somebody who has to imagine they're sitting on a chair and the person they harmed is washing their feet and they're humble by that expression and it breaks their heart. Or maybe the person has been the one that has been the one that has been narcissistic, that's been self-righteous, well right now in their home may they get on their knees and imagine that they're washing the feet of the person they've harmed. But Lord God I still believe it would be more powerful if it physically took place and I'm gonna stand in the gap. I'm gonna pray for that to happen. I'm gonna think of some individuals that would be great if it could happen and stand in the gap. So I pray all this in Jesus name.

As I end this podcast will you pray for individuals to be restored. Would you pray for individuals that would humble themselves before one another. Rather it is a physical foot washing or if it's just walking up to somebody and say "Hey I've been wrong. I need to apologize to you. May there be oh God, let it be, that there'd be a physical foot washing at a city council meeting or at a community club meeting, or in your community there would be a public ceremony of foot washing between individuals. Wow what would happen? What would happen in America if that took place across America. Most likely not going to happen. Most people aren't that humble, but maybe there would be a few. That this message will convict their spirits and they will actually go into their community and do a foot washing. Thank you for tuning in.

You've been listening to PreacherRichD, the radio host of *There is Hope Radio* and the founder of *Creating Futures*.

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