

MARCHING ORDERS FROM THE THRONE:



“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:15

The Early Church did not walk around in designer shoes, I just don't see Peter walking in a pair of \$1,500.00 Norwegian shoes or John getting boiled in oil and sent to an island wearing a pair of Rapiécés Reprisés. Let's face it the feet of these beloved icons **REEKED!** To walk in the heat and sand in those sandals, not bathing nightly and I doubt if they had a monthly foot manicure.

Yet it is the very part in the Body of Christ that symbolizes taking the Gospel out to the world, the stinky, dirty, smelly, stench feet, filled with sores, cuts and blisters.

In John chapter 13 we find Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and I did not notice in any text that He wore a gas mask when He pulled off their dirty sandals to wash their feet. The same feet He was trusting with the kingdom of God too. What a humbling moment. Now the scriptures teach that after supper Jesus **“laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.”**

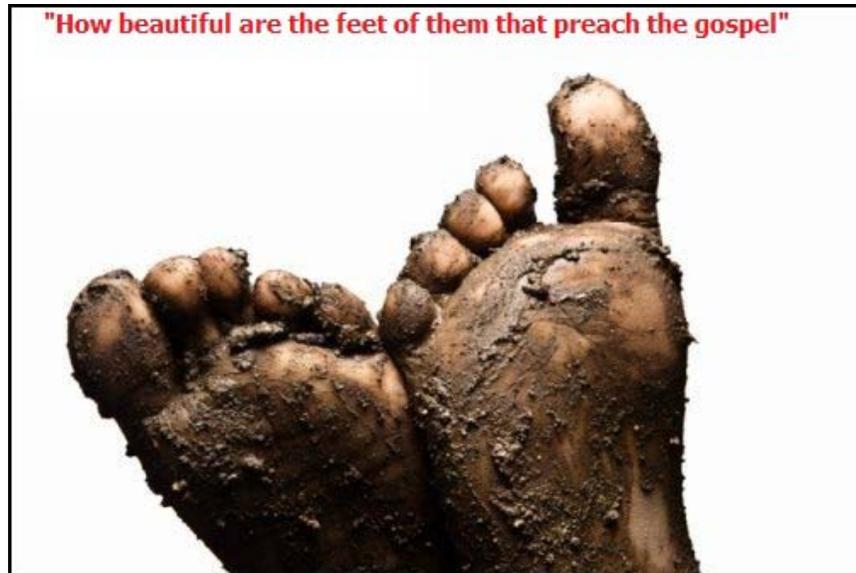
Now right off the bat your legalist Baptist will have issues with this moment, as our Lord seemed to do this foot washing dressed in nothing more than a towel and therefore revealing skin. In many Baptist camps this is a NO-No, one must be covered and not expose flesh, as this is showing nakedness and Baptist 101 teaches otherwise. Some get upset because I wear Christian T-shirts and shorts when I preach and verily they would have been offended after the last supper, as they would have been insulted with John the Baptist for what he wore and Isaiah for walking around barefoot and naked. There are many other examples but I will save that for another time as per John 16:12.

John records that; **“he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.”** Now we live in a phobia generation and there are those that are morbidly fearful of germs, with that said....can you imagine what that water basin looked like after the third guy had his feet washed? And that towel, as was not a glamorous time, but frankly real Christianity is not.

QUICK HISTORY:

John the Baptist, who God used to kick start this New Covenant was beheaded in prison, Jesus our Lord was put on the cross next to thieves in a dump. The man who betrayed Jesus

committed suicide that day, while the others fled. Later these same men were jailed and beaten for their faith and ten of them were killed in a variety of ways, save for John. He was boiled in oil and sent to the Island of Patmos to die. This is raw Christianity, nothing like today.



John continues; **"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?"** Ok, we can let the Baptist back in the room because Jesus finished washing almost in the buff and he is now dressed and begins to quiz the twelve on just what happened.

So after the crusty foot washing ceremony, He then warns that someone in the room will betray Him and dips the morsel of bread with the same hands that washed those feet into the bowl gave it to (*spit on ground*) Judas Iscariot. The point is, those feet were washed in that room, not the hands nor the face.

In Luke chapter seven we read about a woman who brought an alabaster box of ointment and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped them with her hair, then kissed His feet and anointed them with oil. WOW, did she fully understand what she did by washing those feet? Not to mention Jesus allowing a woman to touch Him, again many legalists will have issues with this text. Now one thing that a woman takes pride in is her hair and to dry feet with her hair is beyond humility. Is this not a picture of true repentance; **"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven"**

I have been to a Church that washes feet or better yet puts a little water on them. But this service was given notice as to what Sunday this would occur and the elders of the Church would wash feet. Well, this was not the same as everyone made sure they wore clean socks and their shoes were shined and the women had their toe nails freshly painted and manicured but try that on a homeless person and I think that particular ministry will stop overnight.

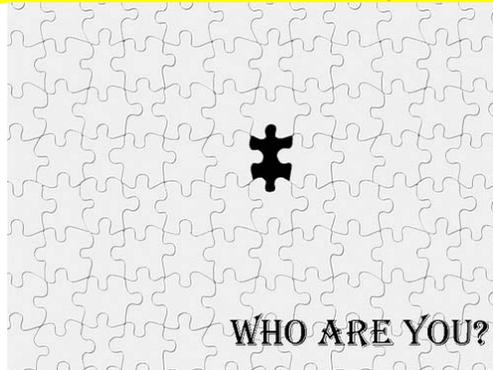
Face it, the feet are not a alluring part in the Body of Christ, but a necessity as we bring this message of peace to those who are war with their God and with sin, so our message may appear to be dirty, stinky, crusty and callous but after washed in the **Blood** of the Lamb, makes you clean.

HERE IS A VISUAL OF THE FEET FROM THE EARLY CHURCH COMPARED TO THE MODERN CHURCH IN AMERICA:



**“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace”
Ephesians 6:15**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR, HAVE YOU A PURPOSE?



**“Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular”
1Co.12:27**

It has always astonishes me that Christians do not know what their function is, within the body of Christ. I'm not taking young believers, I'm speaking of those who have been around a while. Just what is their purpose? There are those that hop from ministry to ministry, from fellowship to fellowship, from Church to Church, from evangelism to choir, to feeding the homeless, to holding a sign against abortion, to being a prayer warrior to watching TBN.

Does the eye every wish to be the foot, or the leg demand to be the ear? Just what would happen if the finger stops working because it is bored, or don't feel at peace and is now seeking to be a tooth. Would your body function?



**“But now are they many members, yet but one body”
1Co.12:2**

Children, at least have some type of vision when they grow up, as they wish to be a doctor, police officer, fireman or nurse. But an adult Christian.....do they know their part in the body of Christ and perform at it? Christianity reminds me of many college students I've preached too, as every year they change their major and some might even be what I call a 'career student' as they don't have a clue how to function in society. Oh but they have an opinion on society.

Is your part in the body to be in Sunday school then sit in a pew on Sunday for 45 minutes, go to a midweek service and play on the internet or watch TV? This only edifying to yourself and not God.

If I had a nickel for every time I've heard a young street preacher tell me, this is my calling, this is where the Lord wants me or I know this is the will of God to proclaim in public. Then after the honeymoon is over and he has bitten off more than he can chew, he moves on. Not that they are not saved, just perplexed as to who they are in Christ.



**“For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.”
1Co.12:12**

If you know what the will of God is in your life, GO DO. Don't try to explain your position, or justify your posture, just GO DO. Who cares what is said about you, what is written against you or what gets gossiped behind your back, GO DO. We are not here to please anyone but God, endure, be content and GO DO your part.

My advice is simple, you should know the voice of God for your life and because you don't have 'peace' about it does not mean this is not of God. Most likely, it is your flesh that is at war. Do you think Moses was at peace when God used him? Do you think John the Baptist was at peace in a pool of water looking like a mad man? Was our Lord at peace, before the cross? Think Paul was in peace sitting in a prison day after day or what about John, after getting boiled in oil and sent to an island. Wonder if he was at peace? No, but they had a task that needed done and they endured what as required.

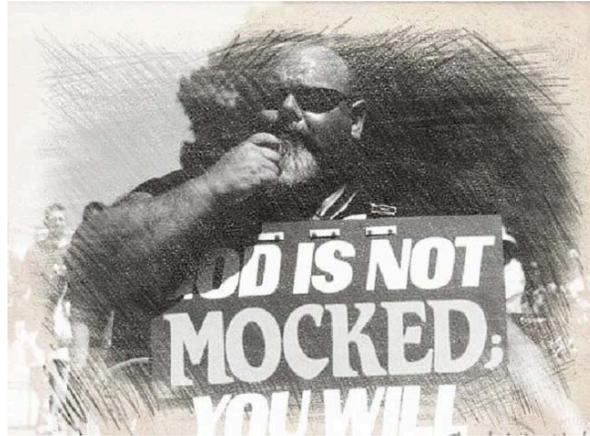


**“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”
Hebrews 12:1**

If I waited to feel at 'peace' before I served God, I would only go and minister in Hawaii. Know your reason for being, kill your flesh and be content. In all my years of preaching on the streets, campus or events, I've never wanted to be like someone else, I do not mimic others. I don't read where Matthew wanted to sound like Mark nor Luke tried to emulate John, and Paul did not wish to be a Peter. But rather God used these men of character and they did their part in the body of Christ and the body functioned well.

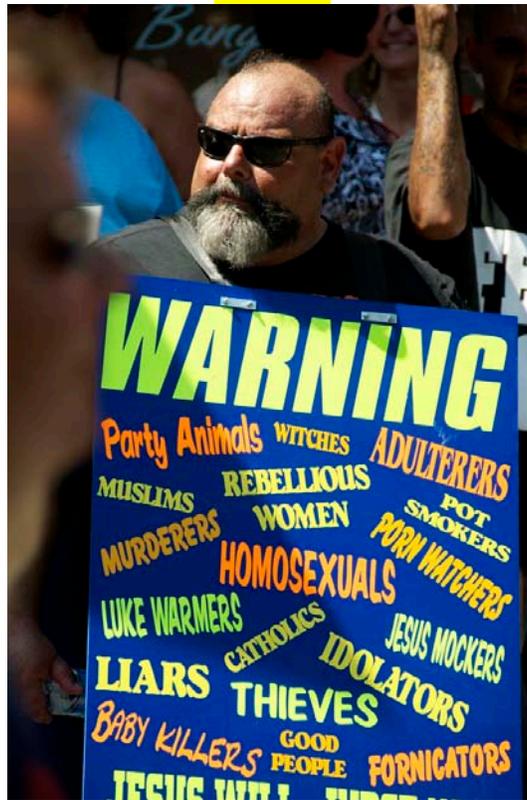
**“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness”
Romans 12:4-8**

Interesting text this Romans 12, as we find that within the body of Christ there will those who's job it is to warn and exhort and it should be done with straightforwardness, have we circumcised this part from the body of Christ?



"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity"
.....just go do.....

WHY IS OUR MESSAGE CONSIDERED TO BE SO EXTREME WHEN WE PREACH IN PUBLIC?



Now who will argue that prophets of old were harder with the religious of their day?

(see Jeremiah 23 for details)

Who will argue that John the Baptist did not reprove the religion of his day?

(see Matthew 3 for details)

Who will argue that Jesus did not argue and strongly chide religious people?

(see Matthew 23 for details)

And the Epistles, are they not filled with verses against false believers and teachers?

(just read the Bible for more details)

To which I say the theater we live, EVERYONE is religious and devout.

Everyone has their version of 'holy books' be it from science, history or spiritual writing.

Atheists have become a form of religion.

Heathen consider themselves to be spiritual.

Cults seem to have these special revelations from God.

Tree huggers, believe plants have souls and Mother Nature is the creator.

Evolutionist, have strong faith that we came from apes and will return to mere dirt.

Many Churches are filled with people who know religion, tradition and idols.

Seminaries are full of leaven and tolerance .

Sodomites are accepted and allowed to teach from the pulpits.

Your basic believer thinks themselves to be theologians, claims to be filled with the Spirit of God, and thinks they know Hebrew and Greek because they can use a Strong's concordance?

Ask anyone what do they think God is about and 95% will answer "love" not "holy" as in Holy Father, Holy Ghost and Holy Bible.



We are told by the 'love bug' cult that we should preach love and forgiveness because Jesus was only hard on religious people. Have these people NO DISCERNMENT of the world we live? Most people believe they know God and are saved, and are filled with His Holy Spirit and go to a true Church as everyone else is wrong and should we bless them or expose them?

**"They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you"
-Jeremiah 23:17**

**"For he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds"
-2John 1:11**



Couple with the fact we do live in America.

With Churches everywhere, Bibles can be bought at a truck stop, we have Christian radio/television/internet 24 hours every day and I would say most kids today had some type of religion in their life. With that said, we are a people that have heard the name Jesus almost from birth, and the death, burial and resurrection is not something new, so to Much is give, Much is then required.

"Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous *man* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *man*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul"

