

John 13:2-5

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, 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.

I don't know how many of you realized that the devil had put into Judas' heart to betray Jesus, even before Jesus washed his feet. Jesus knew this and still washed his feet, making them clean, yet Judas decided to go out and get them dirty again.

Jesus cleanses us of our sins, yet we have a choice to go out again and get dirty or not. What has Jesus cleansed you of when you got saved? I know of the things I used to do over 40 years ago before I got saved. I also know that some of those things I actually went back to and got dirty again, even though Jesus had saved me from them. Yet Jesus' blood covers all my sins, so even though I did, and I have been cleansed from them all.

It's like when we were kids and our mom would get us dressed up for church on Sunday and tell us not to get dirty. But by the time we got home from church, (Especially as boys) we ended up getting dirty anyway. So our moms had to wash our dirty clothes again so we could wear them again the next Sunday. Even though we were told not to get dirty and possibly even tried not to, we did anyway.

Jesus told the woman caught in adultery to “*go and sin no more*” (John 8:11b). So does that mean she never sinned again? No, because in our flesh, we still have the sin nature that we all struggle with and we all fall into sin every day, several times a day, even several times an hour.

But the keyword is “struggle” because even though you may sin, if you are not struggling with it, there may be a major problem as a believer. Because we should not want to sin and if you can continue to freely and willfully sin, you have almost become like Judas.

Judas was dirty, “*the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him*” and Jesus actually cleansed those dirty feet that Judas got dirty when he went out to betray Jesus before this Passover Feast happened.

† **Mark 14:10-11** *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.*

Judas probably thought that Jesus had no idea that he decided to betray Jesus, and thought he was being sneaky. How many go out and sin thinking that Jesus doesn't see or know what they are doing. But you know what, Jesus does know, and He felt that sin on the cross that you think you are hiding from Him.

But still, Jesus ***“poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”***

When it says “disciples” it is refereeing to all twelve, including Judas and he had the choice right then and there to remain clean and not betray Jesus, or to go out and get his feet dirty again. And we know what choice Judas made. Yet we all have that same choice, to go and sin against Jesus or not, because all sins that we commit, we commit against the Lord. Even King David, who committed adultery and murder did not say I have sinned against Uriah and his wife Bathsheba, but rather:

† **2 Samuel 12:13** *So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*

The difference between King David's sin and Judas' sin is that Judas did it willingly and refused to repent, whereas, King David acknowledged his sin, confessed it with a broken heart knowing that what he had done was against the Lord.

So even though you have been cleansed by the Lord, and you do end up going out and getting dirty again, you will be forgiven if you confess your sins to Him, because when you made Jesus Lord of your life, you made the choice not to want to live in sin any longer and to live a life pleasing to Him.

† **Jeremiah 42:6** *Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.*

Just remember, that even though Jesus has cleansed us, it does not give us the right to go out and get dirty again.

† **Romans 6:1-2** *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*