



## Defiant Faith

### Do as Jesus Did

Pastor Rafael Aristy - August 13, 2023

#### LIVING OUT INTENTIONAL FAITH

**Intentional:** *On purpose; deliberate*

The gift of everyday: purposefully focusing your attention, energy, and faith every day.

- Mindset: "I will **NOT** be moved! I will do what I said I will do."

**Defiant:** *Open resistance*

We look at Jesus's life as a pattern to follow. He is our model, our example. He openly resisted culture, the government, other people's expectations, etc.

- *How do we live out our faith in a defiant way?*

- *In what ways do we openly resist the ways of this world? Of our culture?*

- *How can we defy our internal tensions & dialogues or our excuses?*

Today, living out our intentional faith:

- "We pray \$100 million prayers, but God is asking us to grow our \$10 faith."

***We are praying \$100 million prayers, but God is asking us to grow our \$10 intentionality.***

**John 13:1-5** "Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved His disciples during His ministry on earth, and now He loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God. So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel He had around Him."

The setting for this passage is right before the Passover celebration.

**13:1:** He had loved them while He had been with them, and He loves them to the very end.

*Do you understand that Jesus loves you to the end?* He doesn't love for a short time, He doesn't love conditionally, and He doesn't start loving you after you surrender your life to Him or after you have it all together. He has always loved you.

*It was God's love for you that put His beloved son through the agony of the cross.*

**13:3-4** "Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God. So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist."

Jesus **knew who He was**, so He **knew what He had to do**.

- Jesus knew that serving His disciples in this manner, *in a defiant way*, was not going to diminish who He was.
- Because He knew, He did.
- Knowing who you are is **essential** to serving those around you.

### Foot Washing

Several sources list Biblical foot washing as a sign of hospitality, hygiene, and/or purification. This act was normally performed by a servant; or the person with the lowest status in the house. By Jesus doing this, it was the ultimate reversal of status. The King took a position of a slave. It was also a picture of what was to come: the ultimate humiliation, the ultimate surrender- the crucifixion.

You would not find a rabbi (teacher) performing this act, but a servant (a slave).

- This is a **defiant** act by Jesus. He openly resists the expectations of the disciples, of the culture, and of humanity.
- The foot washing pointed to the **crucifixion**; Jesus **sacrificing** and **humiliating** himself for a people who had and will betray Him.

The washing of the feet by Jesus points to who our God is.

- He was willing to show Himself as a slave, as a servant, for the sake of those whom He loves.

**Philippians 2:5-8** "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in

appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

**2:7** Jesus made himself nothing. Being king, He made himself a servant, a slave. That’s the definition of **defiant!**

- Why? Because of **you**, because of **me**.

The intimacy of washing someone else’s feet:

- You have to get in personal space.
- You have to get low, kneeling down before the person.
- You clean the worst of the worst off of feet.

That’s what King of all the universe chose to do for those He loved, and He was not done. He would later humble Himself even more on the cross and **He even did this for the one who would later betray Him**. Jesus knew Judas was going to betray Him, yet He washed His feet too.

*- Do you know who you are in Christ? Have you taken that identity and used it to serve others?*

*- Who are you not willing to serve because of what they’ve done to you?*

“This story is about *love betrayed*, not just *love portrayed*.”

-N.T. Wright

**John 13:12-15** “After washing their feet, He put on His robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

Jesus asks the question “do you understand what I was doing?”

- He moves to a very important part of the conversation.
- “You call me Teacher and Lord...”
- Those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus- **what you call Him is a revelation of your level of responsibility in His mission.**

We can’t call Jesus “Lord” and not follow His example. **No one gets a free pass.** In washing of feet, you get into the mess people have walked through!

**13:15** "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

- *What's the example Jesus has given his disciples?*

- *In our context, what is a form of foot-washing?*

**James 2:15-17** "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

*This is INTENTIONAL faith!*

Responding to a need to serve can help us grow. It helps us grow in

- In humility
- in selflessness
- in compassion

It helps us become more like Jesus and propel us into what God has for our future.

- *Do we tell God that what He is asking of us is too menial for us? It is beneath us?*

- *What do we refuse to do because it carries no prestige?*

Mark 4 and 4 different types of soil:

**4 Conditions (SOILS) of the heart:**

- Hardened soil (Path)
- Rocky soil
- Thorns
- Good Soil

**Hardened soil:** Hears about a need/opportunity and thinks, "I have nothing to offer," or, "the gifts/talents I possess are not needed in our church family." Result: NO ACTION

**Rocky soil:** Hears about a need/opportunity and gets excited! Fills out the Serve Team Application, but then, no follow through. Result: NO ACTION

**Thorns:** Hears about a need/opportunity and may even start serving, but then things get hectic and the first thing to go is serving the family of God. The internal talk might be, "I can't commit to anything. I'm too busy, too tired, too worried," and will not even try. Result: SOME or NO ACTION

**Good Soil:** Hears about a need or opportunity and overcomes the internal negative talk to push past the barriers. Has ears to hear what the Spirit is saying and how He is leading. Produces fruit in themselves and others. Result: INTENTIONAL ACTION

The washing of the feet was a picture of the cross. The place where Jesus ultimately lowered himself to clean off all the filth on humanity. It wasn't only for your feet.

- Humble yourself for the sake of others.
- Put your desires on the shelf in order to serve needs.
- Be selfless, be compassionate, be loving
- The only way this happens is by first surrendering your life to Jesus.

*- Would you allow Jesus to "wash your feet"?*

*- What's the position of your heart when it comes to serving your church family? Is there somewhere you need to get involved and start serving?*

*- Is your heart hardened, rocky, thorny, or good soil? What hinders you from "washing feet"?*