

## HOW COULD JESUS BE SO FORGIVING?

### John 13:1-7

**Introduction:** What if you had some power that enabled you to know all about people. What if you knew every mistake your friends and family had ever made. What if you had the power to read their minds and knew their every thoughts? Having this power or ability would no doubt cause you to have a different opinion about some people wouldn't it? What if it were reversed and all your mistakes were known and somebody knew you every thought? Well, that part is true. There is somebody who knows your every mistake and every thought you have ever had or ever will have. Jesus!

### I. JESUS KNEW THE THOUGHTS OF PEOPLE AND YET DID WHAT HE DID

1. Jesus met hundreds of people during the three years of His ministry.
  - He knew their unspoken thoughts, private doubts, their plans, everything about them.
2. When Jesus looked at Peter, He knew that Peter was going to cut the ear off a soldier and run away, then deny Him three times.
  - As He looked at Judas, Jesus knew also that Judas would betray Him.
  - As He looked at His disciples, whom He loved very much, He knew that they would all run away one night except for one, John.
  - As He looked at Thomas, Jesus knew that Thomas would be hard to convince about His coming resurrection.
  - As Jesus listened to His disciples arguing, He knew it was about who was going to sit where when Jesus set up His kingdom.
  - As Jesus looked at John, He knew that John would one day want to call fire down from heaven on all the unbelievers.
  - How could Jesus be able to love these men so much knowing what they were going to do?
3. When they had gathered together for the Passover meal, Jesus did something strange.
  - Jesus took off His outer robe, knelt down and washed the feet of each disciple.
    - Nobody thought about washing feet as it was a servant's duty.
  - Jesus, Son of God, King of the universe, whose hands had shaped the heavens, now on His knees washing dusty, dirty feet of His disciples whom He knew so well.
  - Here is the One to whom every knee shall bow, on His knees before His friends hours before His death, who will desert Him, and His main concern is that they might know of His love for them.
4. Of all the things Jesus could be doing just before His death, **Jesus was washing feet!**
  - He knew the future of each foot He was washing.
    - One pair would betray Him for money in just a few hours.
    - All but one pair would run away when soldiers came.
  - He knew what each disciple would do in the following hours and days, the worst they would ever do in their entire lives, **yet** Jesus kneels before each one, lovingly, tenderly washing each foot.

5. **Before they committed their sins, Jesus had already forgiven them. He was giving them mercy before they could ask for it.**

## **II. JESUS WANTS BELIEVERS TO FORGIVE AS HE DID**

1. Just thinking about those who brought hurt brings more hurt, forgive? Impossible!
  - Perhaps one should try to stop remembering his/her own hurt and those who did the hurt and focus on Jesus who has been hurt more, and how He handled it.
2. What Jesus did that night at the Passover Supper for His disciples, He has done for every believer whose every mistake and thought is know by Him:
  - Jesus has cleansed the believer's heart from sin (compare to washing feet).
  - Jesus continues to keep the believer's heart cleansed.
  - Jesus looks at people, sees every thought, knows hearts and intents and instead of turning around and walking off, He reaches out in kindness and says, **"let me clean you up..."**
3. Because Jesus indwells the believer, then the potential to forgive as Jesus forgave is there.
  - Jesus can show the believer how and help the believer to forgive as He did/does.
  - The believer must **want** to forgive before Jesus can help.

## **III. WHY DOES JESUS "WASH" THE BELIEVER?**

1. The mercy of Jesus precedes the believer's sins and mistakes and that is called Grace.
  - The believer, with Jesus' help, gives mercy even before others bring hurt.
  - Jesus offers unconditional grace, so is the believer to offer unconditional grace.
  - Those who were close to Jesus had no doubt of His love for them, and so should those who are close to the believer have no doubt of his/her love either.
2. What is it like to have a heart like that of Jesus?
  - To have a heart like Jesus means to kneel as Jesus knelt, touching people, removing their unkindness with kindness.
3. How does one who has been hurt give mercy and kindness to those who brought the hurt?
  - Jesus was the one who was innocent, He was the one who was hurt also.
  - Of all the men in the room that Passover night, He was the only one who was worthy of having His feet washed, yet it was Jesus who was serving the others.
  - Jesus' example is for the hurt one to kneel before and serve those who brought the hurt.
    - Most often when this happens, both end up on their knees before Jesus.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Believer, is there someone who has brought you hurt and you've been unable to forgive?
  - What would Jesus do? Jesus will help you do what He did **but** you've got to want to.
2. Jesus made sure that His disciples knew that He loved them. Do you need to do the same?