



### Foot Washing

Let's Start Talking: Has there ever been a time when someone washed your feet?

Read: John 13:14-15

*<sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

Q1: Is this a command that Jesus expects us to be obedient to it?

Read: 1 Timothy 5:9-12

*<sup>9</sup>No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup>and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, **washing the feet of the Lord's people**, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.*

*<sup>11</sup>As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.*

Q2: If foot washing was an activity practiced by the early church, by Jesus command and their example shouldn't we be practicing that today?

### Surrendering Possessions

Read Luke 14:35 -

*In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*







Q4: How did you decide that this statement belongs "back then"?

When you read something directly from Jesus, you would think that He expects you to do it. In the Blue Parakeet, Scot McKnight takes a number of examples like this and talks about how inconsistent Christians can be in reading Scripture. Listen to this quote: (p 13) Read -

*"I know this sounds out of the box and off the wall for many, but no matter how hard we try to convince ourselves otherwise, it's true. **We pick and choose.** I believe many of us want to know why we pick and choose. Even more importantly, many of us want to know how to do this in a way that honors God and embraces the Bible as God's Word for all times."*

Q3: What do you think about Scot's claim that Christians "pick & choose"?

Q4: Walk through the following responses and think of different scriptures that fall under that category.

 <p>"God said it, I believe it, &amp; that settles it"</p>	<p><b>A. It is a Command and I Keep It (Obedient)</b>  <i>"God said it, I believe it and that settles it." I am obedient to living this out.</i></p>
	<p><b>B. It is a Command and I Ignore it. (Disobedient)</b>  <i>"God said it, I believe it but I am disobedient &amp; ignore living this out.</i></p>
 <p>HOPE IN GOD</p>	<p><b>C. Example To Follow to Give Us Hope</b>  <i>... For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.</i>  <b>Romans 15:4</b></p>
 <p>"Rule? No, More Like Guidelines."</p>	<p><b>D. Valid Principle For Me to Live By but Not Really a Command – "Live Love!"</b>  <i>... "The code is more what you'd call 'guidelines' than actual rules."</i>            Capt. Barbossa in "Pirates of the Caribbean"</p>
 <p>That was for then, this is now.</p>	<p><b>E. That Was Actually Only For "Back Then, This Is Now."</b>  <i>I put these passages in its location in God's Story &amp; look for how it can fit in today.</i></p>
 <p>Not Valid For Today</p>	<p><b>F. A Command But It Is Not Valid For Today</b>  <i>"Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law."</i>  <b>Galatians 3:25</b></p>

Q5: Are people afraid to question how they read the Bible? What are they so afraid of? Do you have anyone in your life that challenges how you read the Bible? Explain.

**Closing Reading:** -- Overview by Trevin Wax – (see [www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org))

**Do we all pick and choose, or another way to say it, do we “adopt and adapt” what we’re to obey in the Bible and how we’re to obey it?** (p 11) After seeking to demonstrate the truthfulness of his claim that we all pick and choose, Scot will lay down some ground rules that help us understand *why* we pick and choose, and how we should pick and choose *biblically* – in “a way that honors God and embraces the Bible as God’s Word for all time.” (p 13)

As you read your copy of **“The Blue Parakeet”**, Scot McKnight will expose you to the hypocrisy of Christians who say they believe in the Bible without doing what it says. What good is inerrancy if you don’t do what God says? How many of us know doctrine about the Bible but don’t do what the God of the Bible says? Good questions. **So Scot challenges us to figure out how we know what in the Bible is applicable today and what is not.**

Next we will see how Scot uses the story of a blue parakeet as the central metaphor for the book. A blue parakeet once came into Scot’s peaceful backyard. The mere presence of the parakeet terrorized the sparrows. Scot thinks that **we have tended to cage and silence the “blue parakeet” passages in the Bible – those passages and commands that make us uncomfortable or challenge our current notions.** We will discover that Scot believes that if our interpretation of the Bible does not lead to good works, we have aborted what the Bible is designed to produce. **“If you are doing good works, you are reading the Bible aright. If you are not doing good works, you are not reading the Bible aright.”** (p 112)

**Can you image what could happen if we stopped asking, “What does the Bible says?”, but asking, “What is God saying to me in that Bible?”** The difference is a difference between paper and a personal relationship with God.

### Additional/Optional Material

### Read - Scot’s Personal Story with The God of the Bible



*“But one morning, we were asked by our cabin leader to go spend a little time in prayer before breakfast. ...and I finally sat next to a tree, and prayed what my cabin leader told us to pray: “**Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit.**” ... The Lord to whom I prayed that prayer caught me off guard. To quote the words of John Wesley, “My heart was strangely warmed.” ...When I prayed, something powerful happened, and I went to breakfast a new person. Within hours I knew what I wanted to do for my life. On that hot summer day, I unexpectedly became a Bible student with a voracious appetite to read the Bible.”* (page 9-11)

**Q6: What did you find interesting about Scot’s personal story with the Bible?**

**Q7: Do you have a personal story with the Bible?** *What was happening when you had an appetite to read the Bible?*

### Read: James 1:26-27

*<sup>26</sup>Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not **keep a tight rein on their tongues** deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.<sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to **look after orphans and widows in their distress** and to **keep oneself from being polluted by the world.***



**Q8: What would you tell someone if they asked you, “What is pure and faultless religion?”**

**Q9: Like Scot McKnight, were you ever disturbed when you saw that Christians were not consistent in how they lived out their reading of the Bible?**

**Q10: Can you make a list of things that created questions for you concerning the Bible.**

Were you ever taught...

1. Your denomination was the only one doing it right & going to heaven?
2. Changing the style & how you sang in worship made God mad. Nadab & Abihu’s Strange Fire
3. You must be silent where the Bible is silent – no additions.
4. The King James Bible is the only authorized translation.
5. Share other examples of things that trouble you:

**Close with Prayer:**