

It was hot in Mississippi. Heading toward a bench under a shade tree, I saw an old gentleman with a cane. He had gotten down on his knees to retrieve a ball out from under a car for a small child. He struggled to get up and then he ambled back to the bench. I sat down and asked; "Isn't that asphalt too hot to be down on your hands and knees?" He reached into a small cooler and handed me a bottle of water. Said his name was Earl and that the Lord told him to get that ball. Being a Christian, I was skeptical, and wondered just how the Lord had spoken to him. Maybe it was just the heat talking. "You got a few minutes for me to tell you how it happened?"

Earl said that "Jesus was at a Passover Feast before He went on to the Garden of Gethsemane. He was having dinner with His apostles, when He suddenly stood up and took off His Kingly, priestly robe. Then He took a towel and began to wash the feet of His followers. Now, everybody was in shock, because this was the job of a servant, not a King. When He was done washing and drying, He put His King robe back on and sat down."

"You know, when I was just a young boy, our preacher told us how folks getting ready for the Passover Feast would bathe themselves, to be clean before getting to the feast. After bathing, they walked to the dinner, and their feet got

dirty on the way. Now, every child knows that you don't go inside someone's house with dirty feet. There was Jesus, King Jesus, down there on the floor, kneeling in front of His servants, cleaning up their dirty feet and toweling them dry. They had already had a bath, so only their feet were dirty. He must have loved them a lot to do that for them."

"My mama was a wise woman, so I asked her why Jesus did that. She sat me down at the dinner table and told me that there's almost always more to a story than what you see at first. Especially in the Bible. Those apostles had their baths and were clean to head out to the dinner. In the story, taking a bath before they went to the dinner, is talking about both of us, we're clean on the inside because we invited Jesus into our hearts and were baptized. We are completely clean in Jesus' eyes. The foot washing is about how Jesus will wash away our sins and forgive us when we don't walk like we should, after we repent and confess our sins and ask Him to forgive us. We need to serve other people, helping them out where we can because we ought to do like He did. He told us that the folks that serve others with a humble spirit will be great in His Kingdom. So, getting down on my knees and fetching a ball for a child is what Jesus told me to do, to humble myself to serve others."

Earl is a wise man and a humble servant. He reminded me that staying and walking clean before Jesus is a picture of the clean bride at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The bottle of water he gave me helped cool me off, but his faithful example refreshed my soul.