

Yom Kippur 11

Blessed Are You

(a Story at the Breaking of Bread)

Daniel (Nathaniel's son) asked me why the children always ask on this particular night, "Why is this night different than every other night?" But our people have *always* said that on the night of Passover. That's why we're gathered tonight. That's kind of what this story is about. It's a short story, but it's part of a long story.

This happened near Jerusalem. There was this nice village called Bethany. It was really nice. You just go down from Jerusalem, down this small road where you have to pass this mountain where they grow olives, this nice olive field. Our Master used to hang out in this olive place a lot. And then you go down a little bit farther, and you could see Bethany. It's a really nice place.

There were some good friends of our Master there. The man's name was Elazar. He was a really good man. He was kind of a famous person. He wasn't famous before, but he got famous. He had two sisters named Miryam and Martha. He's the one who died. And our Master came and brought him back to life from the dead. You know who I'm talking about? In Greek they call his name Lazarus, but in Hebrew his name is Elazar. He was really an amazing man. Such an amazing person that our Master said, it's not time for him to die right now. And for His glory, He brought him back to life. And the news spread all over the area that this man, whom everybody knew had died, had come back to life almost four days later. This was after he should have already been stinking and rotting from being a dead person. He came back to life. Everyone knew about it. It was spreading like fire among the people. Some people would come to Bethany just to walk by Elazar's house. They would try to get a glimpse of Elazar, because *he was the man who was dead and came back to life!* He didn't actually go *into* death, but he *had* died, so our Master raised him, and now everyone wanted to get a glimpse of him.

Elazar had a hard time going to work and doing things like usual because he had become the big object of talk. It wasn't just talk, though, because some people actually

hated Elazar because our Master had raised him, and they actually had in mind to kill him. It was the same men who wanted to kill our Master Yahshua. You see, many people were starting to believe in our Master because of what happened with Elazar, so these men were thinking, “We’re going to get rid of Yahshua *and* Elazar.” You could kind of get the vibrations from these religious people that they weren’t liking Elazar. They weren’t coming up and going, “WOW! ELAZAR! AMAZING!” They weren’t doing that, no. They weren’t having a right response to our Master’s work and His words and His life. That’s scary, when that starts happening to a religious person.

It was almost time for the Passover, and our Master was going up to Jerusalem. So He said to His friends, “Let’s stop in at Bethany and see Elazar.” And so they were there in Bethany, and the disciples were out looking around. You know why? Because they walked everywhere, and they had to find a place to take a bath before the Passover. So they were looking for a nice creek or a nice pond where they could really freshen up and even wash their robes out. They wanted to get ready for the festival that was coming up in just a few days. Now right outside of Bethany there’s a nice spring of water. So they were so happy, they came running up saying, “Master, we found the best place just outside of town. Elazar told us about it, and we went out there, and there was no one out there. So we’re going to go out there and take baths and get all cleaned up and wash our hair, because it’s going to be the Passover. Tomorrow we’re going to go into Jerusalem.”

And they were so excited about it, because it’s nice to take a bath after not having one for a few months. So, they headed off. Our Master went down there with them. He said, “Of course we have to get cleaned up, because it’s Passover.” Everyone must be clean for festivals, both inside and outside...

They were quite happy. But there was something about them that wasn’t so happy, too. There was this kind of heavy feeling they were getting from our Master, like everything wasn’t really fine. They could tell that He was kind of... well, He wasn’t discouraged, but He was *really* serious. So even though they were splashing, throwing the water on each other, because they were normal human beings like you, and the

water was cold... still, deep down, they were thinking ahead to what was going to happen when they got to Jerusalem. The last time they had gone there it was really bad. There were so many religious men there. They were angry about Yahshua. They even almost stoned Him one time with rocks because they got so angry at His words of love. Why did they do that? Strange. Very strange.

So the next morning, dawn, it was time to head up to Jerusalem. It was so exciting. You could already hear swarms of people on the road. They were just singing at the tops of their voices, waving flags. They all had sheep with them. And they were all going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. And our Master was heading there with His disciples.

Now they all were walking together up the dusty road... I tell you, those men were clean! They were white... At that spring yesterday, they had all gotten really clean. You could see Kepha's shiny cheeks, and his hair was nice and smooth... Clean face. Clean hands. They were clean. White clothes. I mean, never did they get really clean in a dusty place like Israel till they had a good bath.

So, there they were on their way. They had sandals, but they didn't wear them all the time because they wanted to save them. People in those days may have only had a couple of pairs of sandals their whole life. So they saved their sandals for certain times on the really rough terrain or for special occasions. So the disciples started walking along the road with their bare feet. Their toes were so nice and clean, well, their whole feet were shiny! But right away, since it was a road with many sheep walking along, and cows, heading to Jerusalem, well, what do you think happened right away? Their feet started getting really dirty — gooey, sometimes, even. They started walking along saying, "My feet are so dirty. But I'm so clean." So when lunch time came they would all sit together and kind of stick their feet here and there. And someone would say, "Phew, can you put our feet over there?" Because already, even though they had been so nice and clean, with all the cows and the sheep walking along the road, well, you know...

And then, things started to change because they were getting nearer to Jerusalem. It got really serious. Everything was really serious. No one was saying much, but they

could feel that something was about to happen. Then, at the edge of the hill, at the Mount of Olives, there were some people waiting, looking to see if our Master would come. And when the watchmen said, “Here He comes!” a bunch of people jumped up from under the olive trees with these branches in their hands. These were people who liked our Master, and they were excited that He was coming. And they had branches in their hands. And He had sent His disciples to get a little donkey for Him so He was sitting on a donkey. And the people were singing and waving branches and crying out to Him, “Hosanna!” Well, everything changed after that. The disciples said, “Wow, this is it! They’re receiving Yahshua as the King. There’s no telling what’s going to happen now. It could be that He goes right up and sits down on the throne... and they push old Herod off the throne, and revolution comes, and you know who’s going to be right at His side? Of course, us! And we’re going to be ruling along with Yahshua.” They were so excited. *It seemed like everybody was receiving them! All of the children were around jumping up and down and crying to Yahshua!*

You could see this crowd of excited people all around Yahshua and then, all around at the back, a darker crowd. They were the religious men, who were really jealous of our Master, coming along and grumbling... GRRR. But you hardly even noticed them at this time because IT WAS EXCITING! They were heading to Jerusalem! It was like the people were ushering in a King. It was totally exciting. Wow, what a day this was! The disciples hardly even noticed anything after that. All these amazing things happened.

When evening came they found themselves in a room prepared for their meal together. The place was nice just like it is here. The meal had been laid out for them. Our Master was there. It was just them. There were twelve of them. And there they were all together, with Him, their shiny clean faces all looking at one another. It was an amazing time.

This is the meal that Yoneq was talking about tonight, that they call the “Last Supper.” It was the last time our Master ate supper with his disciples... They did not realize this, though, at the time. To them it was just the end of a really exciting day. And

there they were together. It got really quiet. They started looking for Yahshua to say the blessing and start the meal and say something... And it was really quiet. They were looking at Yahshua. You know how sometimes it gets really quiet at the minchah, and everyone starts to look around to see what's going to happen? That's the way it was. Then all of a sudden, they saw the Master Yahshua stand up. And they thought, what's He going to do? And He walked over in the corner and He took off His overshirt (they had kind of an over robe and He took it off). And over at the side of the room there was a place where there would have been a servant standing, which there wasn't because it was just our Master and his twelve best friends there that night, and they did not have a servant. But if there would have been a servant he would have been taking care of the table and doing everything.

So anyway, our Master took off His overshirt and took this big thing that was like a towel and wrapped it around His middle. He tied it behind. The disciples were all looking at one another thinking, "What is He doing?" But nobody would say, "What is He doing?" because they knew that somehow something amazing was going to happen... Here is the most wonderful man that had ever walked the face of the earth, Yahshua, putting a towel around His middle. They knew who did that — a servant, a slave. If they were owned by a master, they would put these towels around their middle. The purpose of the towel is to wipe feet off with. Our Master got this bowl of water that was over in the corner, and He walked over to the disciples who were all just sitting there looking and wondering...

Now many times things happened with our Master that they couldn't understand, so they were kind of used to something unusual happening. So they were searching in their minds, "What is He going to do? What is He going to do?" And before they could even have time to imagine what He was going to do, He already... (because they were sitting with their feet out; they didn't have their shoes on like you)... He already had taken hold of one of the disciple's feet. He put it into the basin, and He was washing it. *He was washing the foot!* Now it was a *dirty* foot. Do you remember where those feet had been from the first part of the story? The men still had nice shiny cheeks, but their feet,

they looked like they'd been on a long walk. And our Master was washing their feet. When the feet got nice and clean He had this towel right on His lap there to dry them. The only people who would ever do this would be your servant, or yourself. But not your Master! *He was the One they had just been with coming into Jerusalem, everyone waving branches crying, "Hosanna! The King!" They had already imagined themselves sitting in a palace. And now here's the King with a cloth around His middle, getting down and taking their feet!*

Well, of course, Kepha, who was always the one to express what everyone was feeling, his eyes were getting bigger and bigger. He was just waiting...

And there was this look on our Master's face, like He really loved them. It says right here that our Master loved His disciples to the final degree. There's no greater love that He had for them than totally, right now. So He went over to Kepha's feet. Right away Kepha said to Him, "Master, are you going to... umm... wash *my* feet?" There were Kepha's feet, just so dirty.

Our Master said to him, "At the moment, you don't understand what I'm doing. But later, you're going to understand."

Then Kepha said, "NO, nope, uh-uh, no, no," and he pulled his feet back. He said, "You are not going to wash my feet!" Because he didn't feel it was right... "He is the King of the whole of Israel... (Kepha is the one who had the revelation, "Yahshua is the Son of God!") ...He's the Messiah. He's going to be the King! He's not going to wash my feet. NEVER!" said Kepha. "You shall never wash my feet!"

Then Yahshua stood back and looked at him. He said, "Well then, if I don't wash your feet, you have no part in Me. You won't have one part in My life. You'll be cut off from Me, if I don't wash your feet."

So right away, what do you think Kepha did? Well, what would YOU do? If you said, "NO, NEVER!" and then He said, "If I don't wash your feet you're going to be totally cut off from Me, and you're going to have no part in My Kingdom, My inheritance, in Israel," what would you do?

Well, of course he swung to the other side of the pendulum. He didn't just stick out his feet, he wanted his whole body washed. "Well then, Master, don't just wash my feet. Wash my hands and my head! Wash me!" he said. It's so nice how he was. Our Master said to him, "No. No one who has had a bath needs washing all over." And he looked around at the disciples, remember their hair was nice and squeaky, totally nice faces, like yours, clean... He said, "That person is already clean all over." Yes, they were clean, clean all over.

"You're clean," He said, "but not all of you," because He knew there was one who was not clean. He had a shiny face, but he wasn't clean. He knew there was somebody who was going to betray Him from those twelve men. He knew one of them had a dirty heart. He looked at them and said, "You're clean. You're clean. But not your feet." So then Kepha stuck out his great big dirty feet... They probably looked like Levi's feet. You know they're super good for walking on rough roads. They've already got a sole on them, by themselves... But anyway, Our Master washed Kepha's feet really well — washed them all over. He went to each disciple and washed his feet. He washed them and dried them. He went to all of them, even to that one He said was not clean. He looked right into his eyes and He washed his feet. Yes, even Judas, the man who was going to betray Him. He went all the way around to all twelve of those men and washed their feet. Of course. They wanted to be part of Him! He said, "You won't have any part of Me if I don't do this."

So He finished all twelve. Can you imagine how nice that would be to have our Master Yahshua wash your feet? So anyway, He walked back over to the corner and took the towel off. He folded it up and put it down. And He put down the dirty water. It was filthy water from their feet, but now their feet were all clean.

And since their feet were all clean, He put His coat back on and sat back down at the table with them and said to them, "Do you understand what I've done to you?" And they all nodded yes, well, no, well a little yes, no, perplexed... They wanted to understand, and they thought *maybe* they understood a little, but they didn't really understand. So they just listened.

And He said, “You call Me *Master*, don’t you?”

And they said, “Yes.”

“It’s good that you do that. It’s right that you call Me *Master*. I am your Master. If then, I, the Master, have washed your feet, you must then wash *each other’s* feet.”

He totally switched them from being those GREAT RULERS that are going to sit at His side in a castle in Jerusalem with servants rushing around serving them because they’re the leaders of the whole Israel... and plummeting them from that high place down, down, down, to the job of the lowest servant in Israel, the footwasher, the lowest servant of Israel.

He said, “If I, the Master, have washed your feet, you must wash one another’s feet. I’ve given you an example. (Nobody could wash feet as well as our Master could. We all have to wash feet as well as He did, just like doing dishes.) And you must copy what I have done. I’m telling you something,” He said. “There’s no servant who is greater than his Master.” Is there a servant who is greater than his Master? No. “There’s no messenger who is greater than the one who sent the message. Now that you know this...” Ozziel... Now that you know this, Zakar... Now that you know this, Rinnah... Now that you know this, Kepha, Andrew, and all of My twelve disciples... “Now that you know this, blessed (*asher*) are you if you *do* it. Blessed are you if you do it.”

So He told us a secret, an amazing secret. And the story goes on, and people just pass right over this and continue reading, “Oh yeah, let’s get into the rest of the story...” But He did this for a purpose, and it is very important. If you were listening to what Yoneq said tonight, it goes right together with that. Who are we going to be? Are we going to be the rulers of the universe? What kind of rulers are you going to be? It’s a secret our Master told us. So we can’t forget it. Do you understand? Blessed are you if you do it.

Yônêq — What does our Master want us to do? What does it mean, “As I have done to you, so should you do also to others?” What was it He was talking about, “If I don’t wash your feet, you have no part in Me”? Once you’re clean all over, you don’t

need a bath. Does that mean we never take a bath again? Do we just wash our feet? We can take it many ways, can't we? It's understood in many ways. We have to be obedient to it, whatever He meant for His disciples to do.

The greatest act of humility is forgiving someone. That's the greatest thing we can do, forgiving. If we forgive, we'll be forgiven. He extended forgiveness to His disciples who got their feet dirty. We know we're already clean. We have eternal life, but we sin and we get our feet dirty. We need to forgive one another. Forgive one another. If we don't forgive one another, it kills the Body. It destroys the very reason our Master came to the earth, to forgive. And we are to be like Him. We are to love as He loved. He forgave; we forgive. Never hold anything against one another. We cut it off. We crucify it. Even in Mk 11:25 it says, if we stand praying and remember that we have something against a person, forgive them! If we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven. Our Master had to forgive His disciples when they sinned. He loved to forgive. He knew their frame. He still loves them and forgives them. Forgiveness is a wonderful work.

We don't wash each other's feet here, because our feet are already clean. We don't come here with dirty feet. We're commanded in scripture to not only be forgiven for our sins by the blood of Yahshua, but if we're unclean in any way we're to bathe all over with pure water. So that takes care of that. It's just like our Master. He washed their feet because they were dirty. They needed to get their feet clean. They got their feet in stuff. We get our feet in stuff. So we don't have to get saved all over again. Many times in Christianity, we used to get saved every week. The preacher just loved to have people come down to the pulpit and to make us think we're not saved. We'd get saved every week or re-dedicate our lives. We never could find satisfaction.

We're thankful that we're CLEAN ALL OVER, WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, OUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE. AND IF WE SIN, WE'RE FORGIVEN, *if we confess it*. We have to say, "Yes, here's my feet... clean them." That's

what He wants us to do, and to do that to one another. And then we'll have the Body of Messiah. That's what He wants us to do.

Chen — I'm really thankful that our Master wasn't offended by the smell of our feet. He wasn't repulsed by our smell. It wasn't just our feet. We'd given ourselves to things. I'm really thankful He didn't turn away, but He received us and washed us and made us clean. Our thankful heart qualifies us to come into the Holy of Holies. He did everything else.

Bowing down is the same as cutting your head off. It means capitulation. It's surrender. You are no longer alive for yourself. You no longer live for yourself. *That means you love as He loved.* You're finished with self. You love as He loved. You *love* one another... If we actually do this, we will be everything He wants us to be, as we actually do it. It's up to each individual. I know that a lot of times there are Judases among us. We don't want there to be Judases among us. We want people who are entirely clean. He said, "All of you aren't clean." We need to be all clean before we break this bread and bow down to Him in total capitulation and surrender and do what we vow to do — pay our vows to Him. So all who want to pay their vows to Him and end their own selfish life and do what you were created and redeemed to do, let's break the bread and bow down.