

What does John mean when he says – ***“I am not worthy to bend down and untie Jesus sandals”***? (John 1:27)

Big question?

Popular theology says that Jesus is so mighty, so pure, that we have no right to come to him, no right to touch him – as if we would contaminate him.

A bit like Moses coming into the presence of God – *“take of your shoes Moses you are standing on Holy ground.”*

John also says: *“all who received Jesus, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”* (John 1:12)

- What are children to parents – they’re all over them – hug me, hold me, feed me, comfort me.
- What does Immanuel mean – I am with you – I am walking with you – I am going to bump into you.
- What does Jesus *“became flesh and lived among us mean?”* It means he eats with us, he sleeps with us, he plays with us, he disciplines us, he blesses us.

The whole point of Christmas is that God became one of us – to walk with us – to teach us – to die in our place.

We are meant to touch, hear, and smell Jesus.

So why does John say he’s not worthy to untie Jesus sandals?

John is no fool.

John knows Jesus came to serve and not be served.

John knows Jesus is the Servant King.

John knows that greatness is measured in leastness.

The least is the greatest in God’s world.

Why did God choose Israel to be his chosen race?

Because Israel was the least of all the nations. (Deut 7:7)

“The disciples were arguing as to which of them was the greatest. But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by His side and said to them, Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives Him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is greatest”. Luke 9:46-48

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- John looks Jesus in the eye and says I am not worthy to untie your sandals.
 - Jesus you are the greatest servant of all – far, far, greater than me.
 - Jesus you are the lowest of low, the servant of servants, the least of least.
 - Jesus I do not untie your sandals – you untie my sandals.

The greatest is measured by their leastness, their servitude.

When it comes to leastness, and servitude, Jesus is the greatest.

It is Jesus’ job to untie sandals, to wash feet, to lift the dirty smelly lepers, the lame, the blind, the hungry.

Jesus your job is to untie my sandals.

You don’t hear this stuff today.

What you hear and read in commentaries is that Jesus is so high and mighty and pure that John felt unworthy to even touch Jesus let alone untie Jesus sandals.

I'm putting it to you today the %100 percent opposite. Jesus is the servant of all – John welcomes Jesus to serve him

Not long before Jesus was betrayed and killed there was a meal.

After the meal it says Jesus took of his “outer clothes”– I assume he was naked. It says he wrapped a towel around his waist.

He took some water and began to wash his disciples' feet.

He came to Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “You don't realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

Peter said, “Jesus, you will never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

Unless I serve you, you have no part of me.

“Then, Peter replied, “then Jesus don't wash just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Jesus said: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, a servant is lesser than the one they serve”.

Greatness is measured in leastness in God's world.

For he who is least among you all is the one who is greatest”

2 more things.

1. The most powerful, life changing and lifesaving words in all of scripture.

These words are also the most abused words in all of scripture.

Some people especially women demand they be eradicated from scripture.

These are the most life changing words in scripture – if you only do what they say.

These words teach you to hear the of God's grace.

In Ephesians 5 God says 5 words to us, “*wives submit to your husbands*”.

This is not about women submitting to men.

This is about you and me, the church, or the bride, as Jesus calls his Church.

If he knew how ignorant we are he should have just said “church submit to me Jesus”.

This is about you and me submitting to Jesus Love.

In other words it's a command, a plea, a teaching, an invitation, we are called to submit to Jesus. Why?

So he can do what his entire emissions is all about – to serve us, to untie our sandals, to walk with, to teach us, and to die for us.

The greatest servant of all is measured in leastness.

Submit – allow the servant of servants to serve you.

Our job is nothing – how can we have a job when the servant of servants is serving you?

Our life is a life of thanks and praise – but our job is nothing – we are unemployed.

Last thing:

I have only hinted at this in the past – now let's get into it.

We pray, “come Lord Jesus be our guest and let this food to us be blessed”.

How we do not hear what we say? Who is serving who in this prayer?

But it has to be right it comes from our tradition:

***Komm, Herr Jesu; sei du unser Gast;
und segne, was du uns bescheret hast.***

We are more concerned that it rhymes than the theology.

Think about it what does it say?

Come on Jesus be our guest sit down, we serve you, we provide for you, we feed you as we would a special guest.

Is this right? After John tells us he's not even worthy to untie Jesus sandals.

This prayer tells the world that we not only untie Jesus sandals but we take them off, we wash his feet, we put him in the best chair, we feed him our best food – he's our guest.

Should we not pray: “Come Lord Jesus be our host and let this food to us be blessed”.

It doesn't rhyme but it's right.

“Come Lord Jesus take our sandals off, wash our feet, feed us the best, because you are what you are the servant of all.,

“Come lord Jesus be our “host”, It doesn’t rhyme, it does sit right, but it is essence of God – to serve us.

And it’s the essence of God to say – submit – allow me to serve you.

Greatness is measured in leastness in God’s world and Jesus is the least.

Lord Jesus do not stop serving us with your grace and wisdom. Help us to submit to your teaching, help us submit to your servitude. Be our host at every meal and gathering. Help us live a life of thanks. Amen.