

[John 13:1-5](#)

A Night of Crazy Grace

Introduction

On the night Jesus was betrayed, He did something crazy. He washed the disciples' feet, including Judas, His betrayer. Would you or I do that? Probably not, but Jesus did. That's crazy grace! Grace, by the way, is when we're undeserving of something, but receive it anyway. And get this; we're all undeserving. So, what do I mean by crazy grace?

It's grace that's lavished upon someone we wouldn't expect, so much so, that it doesn't make sense. It's grace that's so outrageously full of compassion we wish we had some of it. It's an outlandish kind of grace as only God Himself could give to those who don't deserve as much. That's the crazy grace which is found exclusively in Christ alone.

However, crazy grace is costly. Think about this. Justice requires the guilty to be punished. God's punishment for sin is death. Jesus paid the price with costly grace when He received God's punishment for sin as he bled and died on the cross. That's how guilty sinners are made right with God. And when a sinner like you or me receives God's grace through trusting Jesus by faith alone, he or she receives the greatest gift of all, Jesus Himself. A gift certainly undeserved, but given by God anyway ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). That's the good news message of the cross.

So, let's take a look at the example of Jesus' crazy grace on that night so long ago when He washed the disciples' feet, including His betrayer, Judas.

Washing the Disciples' Feet, Including Judas

Imagine yourself at the Last Supper. The room had been prepared as Jesus said it would. All of the disciples were gathered at the table with Jesus. This would be the last meal the Lord would eat with His disciples, the Twelve, before His death on the cross. Jesus had challenged them at an earlier time whether they would continue to follow Him because many of His disciples had turned away. He had chosen them, yet one of them would betray Him. Take a look at [John 6:70-71](#).

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “**Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.**” ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

[John 6:70-71](#) (ESV)

Even on the night of His betrayal, the Lord Jesus did something that displayed crazy grace. He washed the feet of His disciples, including His betrayer, Judas. Let's reiterate what [John 13:4-5](#) states about that.

...He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

[John 13:4-5](#) (ESV)

Let's keep this picture this in our mind. Jesus, the Lord of lords and King of kings, washing the disciples' feet. This was a job relegated to the lowest servant of the household. And yet, here was the Lord Jesus, Himself, serving his friends as their Master and yet as their servant. Jesus had said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" ([Mark 10:45](#)).

Now think of it. In order to wash someone's feet, the person doing the washing has to stoop down. Jesus stooped down to do the lowest job, even to the one who was a thief and a traitor. Think about this, too. He didn't come to Judas after having washed the feet of the other disciples and then tell Judas, "I know what you're going to do, so I'm not washing your feet." No, Jesus washed even the feet of the one who would betray Him unto death. That's insane! That's non-sense! That's crazy grace!

Charles Colson, formerly known as President Richard Nixon's "hatchet man", experienced Jesus' crazy grace. In 1973, Mr. Colson was born again, which means the soul, the inner man is reborn to a new life in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. By the way, Mr. Colson was the author of numerous books, which point to Christ, as well as the founder of Prison Fellowship. He said this about stooping down to serve others, especially the unlovable: "It's difficult to stand on a pedestal and wash the feet of those below."

Call to Embrace Jesus and His Crazy Grace

Yes, Jesus the Lord of lords and King of kings stooped down; He condescended to wash the disciples' feet, which included Judas. Why would Jesus do that, even for His betrayer? The answer is to the praise of His glorious grace and according to the riches of His grace ([Ephesians 1:6-7](#)). When Jesus stoops down to offer His crazy grace, how do we respond? Is there embracement and even a willingness to follow His example and "wash the feet" of a "Judas"? Or is there rejection and repulsion?

According to the Bible, Judas shared in Jesus' ministry along with the other disciples ([Acts 1:17](#)). Everything appeared to be okay. But in the end, Judas turned away from Jesus and rejected the grace of God ([John 13:30](#), [Acts 1:25](#)). In reality, Judas was following a path of destruction ([John 17:12](#), [Matthew 27:3-5](#)).

If you haven't trusted Christ as Friend, Savior and Lord, you're following a path of destruction. Everything may appear okay. You might go to church, you may be a good parent and may give charitably of your time and money. All of those are good things, but they don't make a person right with God. Only trusting Jesus through faith alone can do that. He is the only way to God ([John 14:6](#)). Perhaps the Holy Spirit is working in your heart the realization of your need for Jesus. Right now, you can receive God's grace for the first time by turning in faith toward Him and away from sin; that's called repentance.

And how about those of us who are already trusting Christ, perhaps even for decades? Do we trust that God's grace is sufficient for all our needs in all the situations of life? If not, perhaps the Holy Spirit is working in our heart the realization that we're secure in Christ and yet our need for His grace remains. Right now, we can continue in faith toward God

and repent of our sin. That's because we're all needy of embracing Jesus and His crazy grace.

Conclusion

Here's some final thoughts. Jesus is unthinkableably lovely, outrageously compassionate and outright crazy in His love and certainly in His grace. Grace is for the lovable and unlovable. Grace is for the sweetest grandma and grandpa. Grace is for the vilest offender, the thief, the traitor, the gossip, the wayward child and the hard-to-get-along-with co-worker. Crazy grace is for people like you and me. Take a look at [John 1:17b](#)

...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [John 1:17b](#) (ESV)

Only true and lasting grace comes through Jesus. Whether we've trusted Christ for years or you're someone who hasn't received Him by faith, we all need to remember this. No matter what, grace always wins. Grace is always greater than all our sin. Grace pardons and cleanses. Grace is costly. And when the Lord Jesus stoops down, grace always abounds in a way that's incredibly crazy. Praise God for that! Amen.