2021 07 04 Shake of the Dust

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10. Psalm 48.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10. Mark 6:1-13.

**DRAFT 2b**

**Introduction or attention getter – sets theme.**

**? Why do we shake the dust or dirt or dog manure of our shoes- it leaves marks wherever we walk and the smell follows us – people are offended with dirty marks in their homes – lives – car floor and so on.**

**? What other types of dust leave a mark or a smell in our lives – lying, nastiness, hurting others, spiteful words ……………**

**BODY**

**I will talk later about the meaning of the phrase ‘shake the dust of your feet’ to the people the Lord was speaking to but I first want follow the above thought.**

**We who trust in Jesus and follow as did those early believers have a humbling assurance, an assurance that brings us freedom, that even though we may get the dirt/dust of self on us every day, our Lords words to Peter the night before His crucifixion bring us into a most wonderful place – let me tell you the story …**

**Jesus and the twelve were gathered together for the Passover meal – a very special time when they remember their escape from slavery some 1300 years previously, they sacrificed and then ate the Passover lamb. A lamb which was killed and its blood drawn over the door of the believers in God. The occupants of these home were wasted over by the Angel of Death that went through Egypt that night and was the final thing that made the Egyptian Pharos let the Israeli slaves go.**

**Jesus knew that he was to crucified the next day and he both set an example for his followers (us included), he washed his friends’ feet – a slave’s job. Peter objected and said; ‘no Lord you will never wash my feet’ – and Jesus’ wonderful, amazing reply – if I do not wash you Peter you do not belong to me – and Peter’s cry of love – ‘not just my feet Lord but all of me!!’**

**Can you see the excitement and love, how do we feel about Jesus physically washing our feet? – maybe He already has!– Jesus then said one of the great comforts of our walk with Him – “No Peter – once you are washed you are clean all over - it is only your feet that need to be washed”. When we come in repentance to trust in God’s forgiveness we are clean but in our daily lives, we allow self to come into our thoughts and actions and our feet get dusty – we need to come to Jesus and be honest about our actions and motivation – be forgiven and the dust washed and be clean again.**

**‘Go and clean your shoes’ – this cleansing of our souls and minds are not as simple as cleaning our shoes and sometimes when we clean our shoes we just do a quick scrub and its ok but the residue hardens and when we come to cleaning them. Sometimes our confession, our repentance to God is half hearted and the guilt is never gone, it stays as a shadow – the freedom of spirit and emotion is still tainted. We must be honest with ourselves – God already knows, so it is stupid to pretend with God – smooth talk and rationalisation to ourselves is a desire to protect our addictions. Have a read of Psalm 139 – it will give you confidence to be honest with God.**

**2000 years ago, when these words were spoken the ‘shaking of off the dust from the feet’ was a very specific sign of separation of the Jewish and Gentile nations – one nation clean in God and all else dirt to be shunned as unclean. The disciples would have clearly understood this – the problem was that Jesus was sending them to Jewish towns – they were considered clean already. They were instructed by Jesus to tell them and to show them the good news that Gods Messiah had come and telling them that if these Jewish people did not come to God through faith in Him, the long-promised Messiah; the ‘good news of God’s love’ that they were in the same lost, unclean state as the Gentiles. That they were separated from Gods love and laws –the very dust of their town was polluted and rejected, no wonder that they hated him.**

**When the 12 returned and later when our Lord sent out the 60 ?? and they returned excited that even the demons had to obey them Jesus said to them rather to be glad that their names were written in Gods Book of Life – in other words, s*ake the dust off their excitement and see the reality that it is based in – the power is of Jesus not of themselves – if they did not shake the dust of excitement based in what they had done then pride would have found the dust good soil to grow in and they would have become separated from the Lords authority and focused in themselves.***

**We see the same rejection when Jesus come to the town that he lived in, among people that knew him. It raises the question of why and of how was Jesus different, what had ‘brought him into the openness of being Jesus the Saviour – the Messiah’. They had eyes that did not see.**

**Jesus’ knowledge of himself must have been more than he had shown evidence of in the past – he had grown up with and lived with these people for up to 30 years. From eternity he has been the outshining of God, the voice of God, but it was hidden until the Spirit/ The Presence of God came upon Him and the full knowledge of who he was, the acceptance by himself that he was the Son, the exact representation, the Essence of God was given and received from God perhaps in the voice from heaven, when God spoke at His baptism: this is My beloved Son , listen to him/ I am well pleased in him. This confirmed what he said when he was thirteen “I must be about my Fathers business”. Yet his family and home town had not seen it.**

**The result of their disbelief – maybe understandable scepticism? Was that he could not or did not fill many miracle evidences of God’s love. How much of God’s love being shown is dependent on our individual faith? We are told how grand it can be in “if you have the tiniest bit of faith you can speak to mountains – maybe difficulties or maybe actual mountains and they will move BUT there is an unpickable gate on that promise – “if it be the Fathers will!” There is a second lock on the gate – we must ask through love of Jesus, and if we love Jesus we will not ask for anything that he would not ask for.**

**I had a vision/a dream that I have never forgot – children playing in a field – throwing, kicking a ball -the thing was the ball was made of glass and it did not break – so long as they stayed in the field – they knew where the boundaries were and that if they stayed within them they were free – outside the boundaries – and the ball would not go outside the unmarked boundaries unless they aimed it there – if they did the ball would shatter – the freedom was lost.**

**I ask myself why the locals with whom Jesus grew up did not accept that he had come into who he always was – what of us - we need a mind, emotions , that something inside us that just knows – is open to God’s reality and presence in the world – we call it faith – faith is something that we just know -sometimes it is confused with convincing ourselves that something that** **we want is Gods will and we let ourselves have stubborn faith - that it is real and will happen – when it does not - then what? Does something in us die or become sick – covered with dust and cob webs, or does that reborn spirit, the trust in us grow stronger and more aware and wiser and gentler.**

**We do not know, consciously, what our needs are, we only see and feel the effect of them, our prayers, our communication with God are limited by this to a surface communication that we live in and are aware of. Gods Spirit in us knows what our deepest needs are, knows were the loneliness and hurt come from and Gods Spirit knows the mind of God because the Spirit is part of God. The Spirt knowing both the intimacy of God and the intimacy of us can pray with the intensity and intimacy that only God can understand. We have faith, trust, in the love of God and as we talk with God we can rest in the knowledge, the assurance, that Gods Spirit is praying with us, in parallel with us in an intensity of love.**

 **5**And He could not do any [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+6%3A1-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24410f)]miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick and healed *them*. **6**And He was amazed at their unbelief. **Am I amazed at my lack of unbelief? Do I feel it enough to shake of the dust of my thinking, my spirit, to change my physical habits, to prioritise my time, to change my friends – or at least not be with people in places where Gods Presence does not want to be?**

**Do I want to be in clear contact with God in my spirit – will I be honest with God as to where I am in my relationship with God – I may know that in Jesus our Saviour I am accepted by God and that in death my sins are in Jesus on the cross and that when He rose from the dead God had wiped out my separation from Himself – the disciples went every were preaching the *risen Christ.***

**When trust in God is active in us we shake of all the fears and the hurts and the rubbish we may have learnt, what shines though is that Gods love for us individually has taken away not only our dirt but our dust and the Spirit is polishing us and as we follow and care we shine.**

**As a retired sports trainer and massage therapist I have seen and handled a lot of feet including 20 years of taking the boots and socs of football players – I know feet.**

**Gods Spirit tells us that our feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Peace with God though Jesus the Saviour. Preparation = if someone were to ask us “why do you go to church? What would we say? Doesn’t God just forgive everyone? What is the difference between me and a committed person of another belief – how can you still believe when such terrible abuse, such things have happened to you and your family – do I have a way of saying being the child of a loving God to the people around me? or is there dust blowing around in my mind and soul?**

**What country do we live in – Gods Kingdom or the one where we cannot carry even the dust off into Gods Presence with us**