

Turkey 2009
S-Session #3 At The Feet Of Jesus
1/23/2009 10:52 AM

ROGER

- SLIDE #: LUKE 10: 38-39: “As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said.”
- SLIDE #: Humbling to sit at someone’s feet PEDICURES
- SLIDE #: Julie’s feet
- SLIDE #: Roger in the Snow in Jasper, Canada
- SLIDE #: Roger at the Blue Mosque in Istanbul
- SLIDE #: Roger and Julie on a mountain trail in Switzerland
- SLIDE #: I wonder if Jesus had Sweaty Dirty feet!?

JULIE

Mary of Bethany is mentioned only three times in the New Testament, and every time we find her in the same place—kneeling at the feet of Jesus.

- SLIDE #: LUKE 10:39: “She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said.” **Mary heard the heart of Jesus.**

We have a second episode of Mary meeting with Jesus which occurred four days after the burial of her brother Lazarus.

- SLIDE #: JOHN 11:32: “When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
Mary poured out her heart to Jesus. (and Jesus wept with her)

The third episode occurred in Bethany at a dinner a few days before He was crucified. Jesus, His disciples and Lazarus were reclining at the dinner table—

- SLIDE #: JOHN 12: 3: “Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it out on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

Her heart was joined with His, and she freely poured out her life to Jesus.

Wiping his feet means what? She is on her knees at his feet.

Her outward actions picture the inward dimensions of surrender in worship. We must not look simply at Mary’s actions. We must see what transpired in her heart as she remained at the feet of Jesus.

ROGER

•**SLIDE #:** In Luke 10 she found at His feet her BLESSING.
 In John 11 she brought to His feet her BURDEN.
 In John 12 she gave at His feet her BEST.

Mary lived out worship before our eyes where we can't miss it.

•**SLIDE #:** IN LUKE 10: SHE FOUND AT HIS FEET HER BLESSING.

Now the big question that we have to answer today is this: Where do I get my blessing?

DRAW SLIDE #: God engineered a God-shaped vacuum with every person that only He is to occupy.

JULIE

Most people misinterpret this yearning and attempt to fill the void with all sorts of things besides God: Some turn to a hobby, others to a relationship, others to alcohol or narcotics. Some to automobiles or sports or money.

These may work for a while but not forever. When God designed man, He built in a need for God that nothing else will satisfy.

I am continually amazed where people go to get their blessings in life.

The television set

Sports

Job

Other persons

Crafts and hobbies

Restaurants

Bruce Biggers Story: sat on the church steps and wanted the God-shaped vacuum filled—but money and excitement meant more to him.

ROGER

•**SLIDE #:** LUKE 10:40. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus: Why don't you take a load off your mind and sit down."

SLIDE #: Luke 10:41-42: "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

See His countdown: Many things...few things... one thing. Life is full of many duties. A few are important... One thing, however, is absolutely mandatory, the worship of God. "It will not be taken away from her. All else will fade away.

- SLIDE #:** Dr. Alan Redpath, former pastor of Moody Church, had a slogan on the wall of his office. “Beware the barrenness of a busy life.”

Christianity is a land of Marthas. We’re busy – busy, busy people.

SLIDE: EXERCISE #1: STRESS SCALE

Have them fill out their stress scale and talk about Job-when everything was gone, he bowed his head and said, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

JULIE

Story of Larry and Nancy Hagberg-“The worse life became, the more I slowed down until everything stopped and there was God. It was like experiencing eternity.”

Let me tell you what happens when life gets so busy.

We get all out of sorts. We run from activity to activity; we don’t sleep; days are filled with ceaseless activity. No one enjoys it.

In fact, Jesus disappears from our lives when we get too busy.

- SLIDE #:** Have you ever played Where’s Waldo? Look and look for Waldo.

- SLIDE #:** It is like playing Where’s Jesus. Look and look. Where is Jesus.

- SLIDE #:** Oh, there He is! He should not be so hard to find.

Jesus has a lot of competition these days. In our busyness, we might miss Him altogether.

Party for the birth of a new baby. Shower, everyone celebrating, eating cake and bringing gifts. Finally, one of the guests asked to see the newborn. When mom went to the bedroom where the infant had been peacefully sleeping, she discovered that the baby was suffocated by all the coats that had been thrown on the bed.

I want to recommend to you – I know that you have a lot to do – that you begin your day at the feet of Jesus. It will save the day for you.

ROGER

Julie: if you knew today was your last day of life what would you do?

Roger: if you knew today was your last day of life what would you do?

John MacArthur: if you knew today was your last day of life what would you do? I wouldn’t change a thing.

Jesus: “I have finished the work you gave me to do.” “It is finished.”

I would imagine you would focus on relationships. Being sure you were at the right place with Jesus. Bring your loved ones all around you and say those things you had forgotten or

failed to say like “I love you” or “I’m proud of you.” Tell that person you know who needs Jesus the gospel with greater passion.

JULIE

●**SLIDE #**: IN JOHN 11 SHE BROUGHT TO HIS FEET HER BURDEN.

Where do you take your burdens?

As a child, where did you go? When you suffered the inevitable hurts of life. When your father beat you, when you didn’t know if your family would have enough money to survive, when your friends or family betrayed you, Where did you go?

Sad thing is, most of you went nowhere. You suffered alone.

- SLIDE #**: JOHN 11: 17, 19-20: On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.... and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

Martha accosted Jesus: “Why didn’t you come. I know there is resurrection some day. But, we wanted him here now. If you had come you could have healed him and he’d still be with us.

- SLIDE #**: JOHN 11:29: And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

Martha ran right out as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming. Mary didn’t.

Mary, you see, was waiting and praying – waiting for His message to come to her. And in verse 28 it came.

One of the great blessings of sitting at the feet of Jesus is learning how to wait.

I can see Martha as she paces up and down... looks out the window... paces up and down... goes out to the edge of town... looks. “Where’s Jesus?”

ROGER

- SLIDE #**: Now impatience leads to fretting. Fretting. Oh, how people fret. Some of you are doing this now. You’re like Martha. Fretting and worrying. Problems in life you want fixed. Why aren’t you answering!

- SLIDE #**: Impatience: picture of train and subway doors closing in Europe. American woman getting rear end stuck in closing tram in Chicago.

Some of you are living with a squeezed rear end. Take the next tram.

JULIE

- SLIDE #**: Mary had learned to wait on the Lord.

When a child of God is in the will of God and the hand of the Lord seems in no hurry, it’s often because He has something better for you. And He did for them.

- SLIDE #:** JOHN 11:32: “When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus had in mind a resurrection!

JULIE

Then I will read “Come to me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart.”

Teach about the yoke is created for two oxen. Jesus is in one side of the yoke and he is letting you know He is coming alongside of you to carry your burden. Jesus is also inviting that person next to you to get in the other side of the yoke and join Jesus in ministering comfort and support to that person.

SLIDE EXERCISE #: GIVING YOUR BURDENS TO GOD

Bring three stones you have picked up outside to this session. Have them represent the greatest burdens you are carrying. Share those burdens with your partner and pray together about each one. Put your arm around your partner symbolizing that you are in the other side of the yoke sharing their burden.

Then go to one of the cross stations around the room and lay the stones at the foot of the cross.

SHOW SACRIFICE VIDEO segment of Jesus’ crucifixion carrying your burdens and sins for you so you don’t have to.

JULIE

- SLIDE #:** IN JOHN 12 SHE GAVE AT HIS FEET HER BEST (JOHN 12:3).

Wednesday night, two days before the crucifixion: As the Lord Jesus was reclining at the table,

- SLIDE #:** JOHN 12: 3: “Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it out on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

Mary knew the secret that the Lord Jesus was going to go to the cross and die.

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him.”

Do you know any of God’s secrets?

And she had been saving a pound of very costly perfume.

I can imagine that when Lazarus died Martha went to the shelf and brought down the ointment and said, “I’m glad that we have this to anoint his body.”
And Mary replied, “No, we’re saving the best for Jesus.”

This is worship. This is giving our best at His feet.

ROGER

Love always costs.

Have you ever fallen in love? It costs. Thought Julie cost a lot when we were dating. After I got married, I found out how much a wife really costs.

Say you are in love and it doesn't cost you anything. I will tell you it is not true.

Say you love Christ and it never costs anything, I will tell you it is not true.

Remember when you were dating, the value of your gifts increased as you became more intimate?

Easy to lose first love:

This Christmas Roger gave Julie a fat measuring machine.

Julie gave Roger a book on the Aging Brain.

Honeymoon over: Need to rekindle

Many of us lost first love with Jesus. Need to rekindle.

JULIE**Little Girl Who Answered Christ****ROGER**

Mary's gift meant a lot to Jesus. Probably perfumed Him on Saturday night.

•**SLIDE** #: Less than a week later He was hanging on the cross.

No bath. Used perfume to smell good. Some powerful perfume. Take it to the fragrance on the cross...."What's that I smell? Ah, Mary."

WHAT CAN WE GIVE TO JESUS?

•**SLIDE** #: GOLDEN CROWNS

What is a crown? A crown is anything that exalts the wearer. If it draws attention to you, then it's a crown.

Revelation 4:10: the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne ..."

People who worship Jesus never want to be exalted. The more that we're taken up with Him, the more we want to offer to Him everything we have.

The Victors Crown: perseverance (2 Timothy 2:5; Revelation 3:11)

The Crown of Glory: pastors (1 Peter 5:4)

The Soul Winners Crown: evangelism (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19)

The Crown of Righteousness: those who love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8)

The Crown of Life: martyrs crown (Revelation 2:10; James 1:12)

JULIE

What might sacrificing for Jesus look like?

Matthew 25: As you have done it to the least of my brethren.
Volunteering to teach children, crisis pregnancy center, meals on wheels, money in offering plate, sharing the gospel.

ROGER

EXERCISE #4: Think of one example of what might giving our best to Jesus look like today? Share you thoughts with the people at your table.

WHAT BLESSINGS WILL WE FIND AT HIS FEET? HE TELLS US;

OVERCOMER REWARDS MEDITATION

Revelation 2:7: To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11: He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Revelation 2:17: To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

Revelation 2:26-28: To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations ... just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give him the morning star.

Revelation 3:5: He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 3:12: Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God

Revelation 3:21: To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Glory not revealed to us. It's to be revealed in us.

Glory is not some spectator sport whereby we sit in cosmic grandstands and watch some beautiful performance – we will be on the stage. We will be part of it! It's glory which will be revealed in

ROGER**RAGMAN**

¥SLIDE: Several years ago Walter Wangerin wrote a story called, RAGMAN, which sums up the work of Jesus Christ.

Before dawn one morning I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys and streets of our city. He was pulling a cart filled with clothes both old and new, and he was calling out in a clear tenor voice, "Rags...Rags..."

The air was foul, too filthy to be crossed by the music of his voice. "Rags, new rags for old ... I'll take your tired rags ..."

This is a wonder, I thought to myself, for the man stood six feet four and his arms were like tree limbs...hard and muscular. His eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this ...to be a rag man? I followed him ... my curiosity drove me, and I wasn't disappointed.

¥SLIDE: Soon the rag man saw an old woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing shedding a thousand tears. Her shoulders shook as if her heart was breaking.

The rag man stopped his cart. Quietly he walked to the woman, stepping around Pampers and strewn toys and empty cans. "Give me your rags," he said, "and I'll give you another."

He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes, as she looked up, and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new, it shined.

¥SLIDE: And then as he began to pull his cart again, the rag man did a strange thing. He put her stained handkerchief to his own face, and he began to weep and to sob as grievously as she had done. His shoulders shook ... yet she was left without a tear.

This is a wonder. I breathed to myself. I cannot stop following this sobbing rag man like a child who cannot turn from a mystery.

"Rags .. rags .. new rags for old..."

¥SLIDE: And in a little while, The rag man came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek. Now the tall rag man looked upon this child with pity. He drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart.

"Give me your rag, he said. "And I will give you mine."

The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage and removed it and tied it to his own head. And the bonnet he set on hers.

And I gasped at what I saw, for within that bandage and against His brow the blood ran darker, more subtle, more substantial ... his own blood.

¥SLIDE: "Rags, rags, I take old rags..."

Sobbing..bleeding..strong, the intelligent rag man. The sun rose in the sky, and my eye noticed that the rag man seemed more to hurry.

¥SLIDE: "Are you going to work?" he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head. The rag man pressed him. "Do you have a job?"

"Are you crazy?" sneered the other. He pulled away from the pole revealing a right sleeve, flat, with the cuff stuffed into the pocked. He had no arm.

"So," said the rag man, "Give me your jacket, and I will give you mine."

There was such quiet authority in his voice. The one-armed man took off his jacket, and so did the rag man, and I trembled at what I saw. The rag man's arm stayed in the sleeve, and when the other man put it on, he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs. The rag man had only one. "Go to work," he said.

¥SLIDE: After that, he found a drunk man, lying unconscious in an army blanket. The drunk was left with new clothes.

¥SLIDE: And now as I followed the rag man, he was weeping uncontrollably, bleeding freely from his bandage, pulling his cart with one arm, and stumbling from drunkenness. He was falling again and again, exhausted, old and sick ... and then he came to the city limits and rushed beyond.

And I wept to see the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see what he was doing.

¥SLIDE: This little rag man came to the landfill, and he came to the garbage pits. And I wanted to help him in what he did, yet hung back, hiding.

He climbed a hill with tormenting labor. He cleared a little space. And he sighed and he lay down. And he pillowed his head in the handkerchief and his jacket. And there he died.

How I cried to witness his death! I slumped in a junked car, and wailed and moaned as one who had no hope because I had come to love the rag man.

And every other face had faded into wonder in the face of this man ... but he died and I sobbed myself to sleep.

I didn't know ... How could I know, that I slept through Friday night and Saturday?

¥SLIDE: And then on Sunday morning, I was awakened by a violence. Light -- pure, hard, demanding -- slammed against my sour face and I blinked and I looked and saw the last and the first wonder of it all.

There was the rag man ... folding his blanket, carefully, a scar on his forehead, but alive. And besides that, healthy.

There was no sign of age or sorrow. And all the rags that he had gathered shined in cleanness.

And when I lowered my head and trembled for all that I had seen, I myself walked to the rag man, and told him my name with shame ... for I was a sorry figure next to Him.

¥SLIDE: I took off all my clothes in that place, and I said to him with dear yearning in my voice, "Dress me." And he dressed me. "My Lord." And he put new rags on me and I wander beside him ... the rag man ... the rag man ... the Christ.

LIFE EVENTS STRESS SCALE

To learn the level of stress (distress) in your life, mark down the points for each event that you have experienced in the last 12 months. Depending on your coping skills or the lack thereof, this scale can predict the likelihood that you will fall victim to a stress related illness.

When you're done add up the points for each event. Check your score at the bottom.

- _____ 100 Death of Spouse
- _____ 73 Divorce
- _____ 65 Marital or relationship partner separation
- _____ 63 Jail Term
- _____ 63 Death of close family member
- _____ 53 Personal injury or illness
- _____ 50 Marriage
- _____ 47 Fired from work
- _____ 45 Marital reconciliation
- _____ 45 Retirement
- _____ 44 Change in family member's health
- _____ 40 Pregnancy
- _____ 39 Sex difficulties
- _____ 39 Addition to family
- _____ 39 Business readjustment
- _____ 38 Change in financial status
- _____ 37 Death of close friend
- _____ 36 Change to a different line of work
- _____ 35 Change in number of marital arguments
- _____ 31 Mortgage or loan over \$150,000
- _____ 30 Foreclosure of mortgage or loan
- _____ 29 Change in work responsibilities
- _____ 29 Trouble with in-laws
- _____ 28 Outstanding personal achievement
- _____ 26 Spouse begins or stops work
- _____ 26 Starting or finishing school
- _____ 25 Change in living conditions
- _____ 24 Revision of personal habits
- _____ 23 Trouble with boss
- _____ 20 Change in work hours, conditions
- _____ 20 Change in residence
- _____ 20 Change in schools
- _____ 19 Change in recreational habits
- _____ 19 Change in church activities
- _____ 18 Change in social activities
- _____ 17 Mortgage or loan under \$150,000
- _____ 16 Change in sleeping habits
- _____ 15 Change in number of family gatherings
- _____ 15 Change in eating habits
- _____ 13 Vacation
- _____ 12 Christmas season
- _____ 11 Minor violations of the law

- _____ Your Total Score

0-149: Low susceptibility to stress-related illness
150-299: Medium susceptibility to stress-related illness
300+: High susceptibility to stress-related illness

Note: This scale is derived from the Holmes, T. & Rahe, R. (1967) "*Holmes-Rahe Social Readjustment Rating Scale*", *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 2.