



## LESSON 9

November 1, 2020

# Upside-down Love

Today's Bible lesson will look at how Jesus performed an upside-down love foot-washing ceremony for His disciples. While Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, Jesus' response to Peter is that one day Peter would understand the significance of Jesus' action. Essence can appreciate Jesus' response because she found herself in a situation in which she did not get the point of a moment until years later.

Essence, who is in her mid-50s, recalls an incident when she was a senior in college that changed her life. Essence was raised by her single dad. When she left for college, her father told Essence to think about every decision. One evening Essence left a party with a group of friends. One of the girls offered to drive everyone back to campus. Essence knew her friend had a few drinks. With five girls in the car talking and loud music playing, her friend, somewhat impaired and driving too fast, lost control of the car and struck a tree. Three of the girls passed away, while Essence and the other girl received serious injuries. Essence awoke to a whole new reality. She was paralyzed from the waist down. Essence was angry about her condition and developed selfish pride. She not only expected her father to wash, cook, and clean for her, but she also did not appreciate her father's sacrifices. Essence's father never got upset, but told Essence that she did not understand the point of this moment but one day she would.

After a year of Essence's self-pity, Essence's dad sent her back to college to finish her senior year. Essence argued, "How? I can't walk!" Essence excelled and eventually earned her doctorate of music in voice performance. Today, Essence teaches music to college students with disabilities.

When her father became ill, she refused to put him in a nursing home. With assistance of visiting nurses, Essence works during the day and in the evenings takes care of her dad, washing, bathing, and cooking for him. Essence did not understand it then, but she understands now that her father expressed his love for her by taking care of her. Now, as an expression of her love for her dad, she washes his feet. An upside-down love!

## Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss a time when you did not appreciate "the moment" but later you realized the significance of the moment.
2. Discuss your most challenging time in life that you overcame.
3. Have you ever used a significant event in your life as a teaching moment for others? Explain.