



By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon

**Introduction:** He was born a son to a black slave, but he attained a status that few black men in his day did. He was a professor in one of the northern state universities.

One day Booker T. Washington called him from a small black college in the South, saying, "I cannot offer you fame and fortune. The first you have, and the second you have the ability to attain. All I have to offer you is work - hard work - the work of helping to bring a people out of degradation into full humanity."

That professor from a prestigious university accepted the offer to teach in that small, unknown black college. While there, he got so engrossed in work that he wore the same suit year after year. Often he would forget to cash his pay check.

Companies began to offer him positions with high pay. Some people advised him to accept the offers. They said, "With all of that money, you could help your people more." But he refused, saying, "With all that money I might forget about my people." George Washington Carver demonstrated what it meant to forget self for the benefit of others.

Jesus' life demonstrated that truth. One of his highest moments in doing that is seen in one of His lowliest acts. And that's what today's lesson is about.

**Lesson Background:** Read Luke 22:14-30 to get the background of today's lesson. It was the night that Jesus was going to be betrayed. He has just told his disciples that He was going to die for us. The disciples started arguing among themselves about which of them was the greatest. While Jesus wanted them to focus on the cross, they wanted to specialize in comparisons. The disciples thought that greatness was measured by the big things people did that others knew about. Perhaps each one started listing the various things he had done.

Jesus listened to this for a while then he interrupted. He explained that they were calculating greatness the way the world does and then declared, "But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." (Luke 22:26). Jesus gives an explanation of greatness (V.27) then gives an example as we see in today's text.

"It is now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He has always loved those in the world who were his own and he loved them to the very end. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. The devil had already put the thought of betraying Jesus into the mind of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a wash basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter who said to him, "Are you going to wash my feet Lord?" Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later." Peter declared, "Never at any time will you wash my feet." "If I do not wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you will no longer be my disciple." Simon Peter answered, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!" John 13:1-9)

**The Lesson**

Why did Jesus come here? He came here to love us who were in the world. That means He loves us while we are in an environment that is often ungodly. Being in the world is not easy for the Christians, but Jesus understands and loves us in the world. Jesus' love knows no boundaries. Whatever it takes to meet our needs, He will do it, even if it means picking up a towel and wash basin to clean up feet or voluntarily be nailed to the cross to clean up lives. That's uttermost love. And you and I are recipients of that kind of extraordinary love.

During the meal, Jesus must have looked down and seen dirty feet that caused him to lay aside his outer garment and pick up a towel. He knew that He had just a few hours left with His men before He would die. This was the time to do some really important things with them. But washing dirty feet? Why? In those days people wore sandals and walked in dust during dry periods and in mud during the rainy season. Often travelers would arrive at a house with dirty tired feet. We know that the way our feet feel can affect the way we feel. So in those days a wealthy host would have a slave wash the feet of his guests. In a poorer home a host would have the water available for visitors to wash their own feet.

Jesus communicated many things when He prepared to wash their feet: (1) Even your feet are important to me. (2) Whatever needs you have I am willing to meet, even needs that are physical. Sometimes we forget that God created and loves the total person. (3) I am going to be hospitable to you. I want you around.

It is clear that there was more to what Jesus was doing than merely washing feet. He was demonstrating the true nature of leadership and greatness. Whereas the apostles had been arguing about which of them was the greatest, Jesus showed that real greatness is seen in a person's willingness to render humble service to others. This would be clearer to these men after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and the Spirit's coming on Pentecost to lead them into all truth.

Peter declared that he would not allow Jesus to wash his feet. His intention was reverent and sincere. His (Peter's) response, intended to indicate his reverence for the Lord, revealed instead an attitude of self-will. The rebuke of Jesus that followed makes clear that the first condition of discipleship is self surrender. If Peter refused this service that Jesus rendered, he would be cutting himself off from fellowship with Christ. In this is a profound truth for all of us. Though we honor Jesus as our Master and wish to be his servants we cannot be His unless we accept His service to us, unless we allow Him to cleanse us.

Christianity is not just a life to know about, but a life to live out.



Norma Fybrace  
...W.C. Keyette



Tina L. Rippy  
...Collects dolls



Tamara Calette Smith  
...Church choir member



Renee L. Wideman  
...Plays cello

## Sorority's Debutantes Possess Beauty And Charm

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Managing Editor

March 23 cannot come fast enough for the young ladies participating in the Delta Debutante Annual Cotillion sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc.

At 9 p.m. at the Park Center the participants chosen will radiate beauty and charm. They will be escorted by two marshalls and dance a waltz with their fathers.

How were these ladies chosen? Each wrote an essay on why they wanted to be debutantes, what they hoped to gain by being a debutante and how their participation will help their development.

"A debutante is a young lady who is a high school senior and one who possesses high standards and is actively involved in her school and community," stated Daisy Stroud, vice president of the Delta Sigma Theta Charlotte Alumnae Chapter. "Recommendations from high school counselors is the norm."

Four beautiful young ladies will be featured this week including Norma Fybrace, Tina Louise Rippy, Tamara Calette Smith, and Renee Lynne Wideman.

Ms. Fybrace is a West Charlotte High School senior involved in the Keyettes, the HOSA and DECA. She enjoys shopping, playing violin, writing and playing the piano.

She is the daughter of Victor and Esther Fybrace of Campus St. Ms. Fybrace has received several DECA competition awards.

Ms. Rippy is the daughter of Lulline Rippy. She enjoys music, reeding, collecting dolls and swimming. At North Mecklenburg she is a member of the S.A.E. (Students in Action for Education)

Ms. Rippy has received awards in piano and first place trophies in doll shows. She is a member of the Explorers' Police Post and her church's Young Adult Choir.

Ms. Smith enjoys being a major-ette at West Mecklenburg. Her mother is Jeanette Smith. Ms. Smith

is also a member of her church choir and the FBLA. She enjoys shopping.

A Harding High School senior Ms. Wideman enjoys meeting people, traveling, cheering and playing the cello.

In school she is a rifle girl and plays in the orchestra. In church she is a member of the Young Adult Usher Board. Her personal accomplishments include being chosen as the Charlotte Post's Beauty of the Week and being the first person in her family to play a musical instrument. She is the daughter of Lemuel Wideman and the late Louise Wideman. Her guardian is Mabel McKnight.



Shakira Mack  
...CMS third grader

## Shakira Mack To Compete In "Little Jr. Miss" Pageant

Little Shakira Mack of Charlotte, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Griffin Mack, will be competing in the little Jr. Miss North Carolina Pageant. To be held March 9 at the Raddison Plaza Hotel.

Shakira is an eight-year-old third grader at Albemarle Road Elementary School. Miss Mack possesses such talents as playing the piano and ice skating. "I also like swimming, biking, and just having fun," she smiled.

Pageant officials chose contestants for the pageant by evaluating submitted photos. Shakira was chosen from among hundreds of applicants from all over North Carolina. All contestants will work with professional producers and directors.

The State pageant is a preliminary to the Little Jr. Miss America. The winner of Little Ms. North Carolina, will travel to Florida in October to compete for the title of Little Jr. Miss America.

Shakira hopes to one day become a teacher or a nurse, because "I like helping people," she commented. Shakira's brothers, Patrick 14, and Anthony 2, are extremely proud of her. And so is her grandmother.

### Professional Training To Women Topic Of Seminar

"Professional Training for Women: How Do You Get It?" will be the topic of a Tuesday, March 5, luncheon seminar at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Speaker for the Professional Development for Woman seminar will be De Aycock of De Aycock Associates, human dynamics training specialists.

The \$8.25 seminar begins with a coffee and tea mixer at 11:30 a.m., luncheon at 11:45 a.m., and speaker at 12:15 p.m., followed by a question and answer period.

Future topics will include curiosity and creativity as keys to success, career profiles of successful Charlotte women, and breaking into sales.

This is the third year the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission and the Women's Career Center at Central Piedmont Community College have offered the seminar series.

For more information or for reservations, contact Carol Jordan at 373-6644. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.



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