



*The Rock is a Youth  
Ministry of Ascension  
Lutheran Church*

## **Cleansed By A Servant**

***Based on John 13:4-17***

**Biff:** Michael  
**Skippy:** Toby  
**Muffy:** Lauren  
**Scooter:** Zach  
**Moose:** Matt W.  
**Dick Vitale:** Joe  
**Jesus:** Oliver  
**Peter:** Ryan  
**Howard Cosell:** Matt S.

*Setting:* Biff, Skippy, Scooter, Muffy & Moose sit staring out at a giant big-screen TV (the Audience).

Biff: Boy, oh boy, it doesn't get any better than this, does it, Skippy?

Skippy: No, are you kidding? March Madness. A solid month of crazy college basketball action...

Moose: A 95-inch plasma TV with surround sound...

Scooter: Food, snacks, and three of my best buddies.

Muffy: Three? What am I? Chopped liver? So does everyone have his bracket filled out?

Moose: Bracket schmacket. It's all chance, right? March Madness!?

Skippy: So, why do they call this March Madness anyway?

Moose: Yeah, I was raised Lutheran, and we always just

***March 22, 2009***

***Page 1***

©2009 David Skarshaug (www.alcames.org). Conditions for use: (1) If you use all or parts of this script in any form, please consider sending a suggested \$25 donation check made out to "The ROCK" to the following address: Ascension Lutheran Church, 615 Kellogg, Ames, IA 50010. Reference the script title in the memo on the check. (2) Do not sell any part of this script, even if you rewrite it. (3) You may reproduce this script for internal use, but all copies must contain this copyright statement.

*Cleansed By A Servant*

called it Lent. (*Rim shot.*)

- Scooter: A...I could be wrong, but I don't think there's necessarily a direct tie between Lent and March Madness.
- Biff: Well, maybe not technically, but there are similarities, don't you think?
- Scooter: Well, they both just happen to coincide with spring break every year.
- Muffy: Oh, come now, we can do better than that.
- Skippy: Well, some people give up something they like for Lent.
- Moose: I gave up hamburgers and pizza...for breakfast.
- Scooter: Right. And I give up household chores and completing my taxes to watch basketball.
- Biff: Somehow, I don't think that's quite the same, Scooter.
- Muffy: I mean this is crazy. What on earth does Lent have in common with March Madness?
- Skippy: Well, Lent is a time to remember a rather crazy—you might even say—mad situation.
- Moose: How so?
- Skippy: God sent his son to earth—the original Wizard of Westwood—and people not only didn't honor him, they killed him.
- Biff: And then things really got crazy. Out of apparent defeat, he rose from the dead and turned his ragtag team of walk-ons into a championship team that grew into the church.
- Scooter: Hold it, you're not referring to the apostles as a ragtag team of walk-ons, are you? Saint John, Saint

*Cleansed By A Servant*

Andrew, Saint Peter? Some walk-ons?

- Skippy: Well, they weren't exactly the dream team either. Take today's Gospel reading from John 13 for instance. Imagine it...*(Dick Vitale appears with "Coach" Jesus and several basketball players.)*
- Dick Vitale: So he got up from the meal, Baby. He took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist, Baby! *(Jesus, wraps a towel around his waist.)*
- Dick Vitale: Awesome Baby! At halftime, he poured water into a basin, baby, and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. That's him with a capital "H" Baby!
- Dick Vitale: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
- Peter: Coach, are you going to wash my feet?
- Jesus: You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.
- Peter: No, you shall never wash my feet.
- Jesus: Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.
- Peter: Then, Coach, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!
- Jesus: A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean.
- Dick Vitale: Awesome, Baby! And when he had finished washing their feet, he—that's he with a capital "H" baby--put on his clothes and returned to the coach's box.
- Muffy: Hold it! Stop right there. I've always had trouble with this part of the Bible.
- Biff: So did the disciples!
- Scooter: I mean, it just doesn't make sense for Jesus to be cleaning the feet of his disciples.

*Cleansed By A Servant*

- Skippy: Not any more than it would make sense for a big time coach like Bobby Knight to tie the shoes of his players.
- Moose: It is Madness, isn't it?
- Biff: Exactly! But it was completely consistent with what Jesus was trying to accomplish in building his team. Let's go back for the post-game interview with the coach... *(back to Jesus, now being interviewed by Howard Cosell.)*
- Cosell: So tell me, coach, what were you thinking when right in the middle of the game you started cleaning the feet of your team?
- Jesus: Do you understand what I have done for you?
- Cosell: Well, you're the teacher, the Lord of the court, so to speak.
- Jesus: You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.
- Cosell: So how did you explain that to your team?
- Jesus: Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
- Biff: You know, some denominations have taken this scripture very literally, and see this as an institution of foot washing, just like the practice of communion or baptism.
- Skippy: I think it's probably missing the main point, don't you?
- Biff: I think the whole episode is a cool illustration of a central emphasis of Jesus whole ministry: that our outer actions should demonstrate the inner cleansing of our otherwise naturally selfish attitudes.
- Skippy: That new attitude of humble service for others was

*Cleansed By A Servant*

thoroughly reflected in Coach Jesus' life: from his healing of others, to forgiving sins, and to the ultimate service of giving his life for his team.

Scooter: That's why we should pray for others, forgive them, and serve them with our whole lives.

Moose: And it contrasted with the attitude his disciples naturally tended to express.

Biff: Yes, in fact, Luke records the disciples arguing about whom among them would be the greatest in Jesus' kingdom even as they entered the upper room.

Skippy: So just like a good coach gets his players to play unselfishly and pass the ball to each other...

Scooter: Jesus tried to show his players the importance of service in team-building. Selfless service is a demonstration of both a right heart, and a means of drawing the team together.

Biff: Let's go back to the post-game interview.

Cosell: So what do you think your half-time talk did for your team.

Jesus: I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Cosell: So there you have it, from the mouth of Jesus Christ, the legendary Teacher and Coach, the Master of March Madness, the Legend of Lent.

Biff: You see, the true nature of Christian living is serving one another, now that we've been cleansed by Coach Jesus at the Cross. I'm heading for the kitchen. Anyone want more chips or another Coke? *(Biff, Skippy, Muffy & Scooter exit.)*

Moose: Hmm. I think I need to adjust my brackets. How

*Cleansed By A Servant*

about you?