

## Online Easter 2020 Holy Week of Devotionals

### Maundy Thursday, April 9th

#### Jesus Washes The Feet Of His Friends, [John 13:1-17](#)

*Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.** Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.*

#### Reflection – An example of the humility of love

Jesus says in John 13:34-35 "a **'new'** commandment I give to you, that you love one another". In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses calls out, "Hear O Israel, The Lord your God is one! Love the Lord your God with all your soul, with all your heart and with all your strength". God calls Israel from the very beginning to love their God, to fear and serve the Lord and to teach their whole families this love and devotion. (Deuteronomy 6:4-15) So, what is new about this command? Jesus answers this question by explaining, "just as I have loved you, you must love one another". The **"new"** is that Jesus was an example of this love. Jesus actually loved us!

The Gospel of John 12 marks a turning point in the ministry of Jesus Christ. In John 12:37, John explains the sad truth that, "even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him." John clearly shows in the first 12 chapters of his gospel that Jesus had presented himself to the nation of Israel over and over only to end with her complete rejection of Him as their Messiah. John writes in John 1:11, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." So, Jesus turns to the intimate fellowship of those who received His love as John records in John 13:1, "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (He never stops loving them).

This Thursday of Holy Week we remember His love. It is the day before Jesus is going to the cross to die. And where are His thoughts? Amazing, He is totally consumed in expressing His love to the disciples in a personal way! That's the love he calls us to. Love is always personal. Love reaches out to personally touch others at their point need. After he washes his disciple's feet, he says, "I have set for you an example that you should do as I have done for you. "...now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them". We are to love others as Christ has loved us. It is in serving others we find God's rich blessings.

But, before we rush off too fast with our assignment of loving and serving, maybe today we need to be reminded that we need to be loved as much as we need to love. When Jesus came to Peter to wash his feet Peter resisted. Jesus responded by the challenge, *"unless I wash your feet you have no part with me"*. (John 13:6-8) Remember it is John who reminds us that *"we love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19) Maybe the Lord was teaching Peter and us that we must first be willing to humbly receive God's love before we can love others. Maybe on this day we need to be reminded that the final act of Jesus with his disciples was to love them to fullest extent! Jesus knows that it is in being loved and receiving love that empowers us to love.

### **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I bow before you today to remember that your final act with your disciples was to serve and love them to the end. I humbly receive your grace, mercy and love. Lord I confess that like Peter, there have been times that I have resisted your attempts to love me. There have been times you came to wash my feet, to see the real me, and I drew back in fear that you might not accept me and forgive my ugliness. I want to love others like you love me. I will glory in your love for me. I pray that just like you love me, I will be enabled to love others too.  
Through Jesus our Lord, Amen