

Maundy Thursday March 24, 2016

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Welcome and Prayer

John 13: 1-17; 31b-35

<sup>1</sup>3 Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

<sup>2</sup>2 Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>3 Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. <sup>4</sup>4 So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>5 Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing.

<sup>6</sup>6 When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup>7 Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later"

[John 12](#)[John 14](#)

<sup>31</sup>31 When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Human One<sup>[a]</sup> has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One<sup>[b]</sup> in himself and will glorify him immediately. <sup>33</sup>33 Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.'

<sup>34</sup>“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. <sup>35</sup> This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

This is the Word of God. Thanks be to God.

Jesus had just this last time with the disciples. This last supper. This intimate setting with them alone. What did he tell them? What was most important of all the things he had said?

Love those around you.

As he washed their feet, he helped them with their lives- he listened—you can't be that close to someone without talking- just ask hairdressers about how much people talk to them. They should be licensed counselors! Mine is happy when I just tell her I don't need to do small talk; I just want to get my hair cut!

Jesus listened as he cared for them. He offered direction as he cared for them and cleaned their bodies.

He helped them to understand that they were forgiven- as we all are... that God cleans us all up- washes our sin away. And the way God does that is through each of us when we forgive ourselves and each other.

In a nutshell- this last evening with Jesus was a demonstration of how God wants us to live:

-Caring for each other

-Loving each other as we are

-Forgiving ourselves and each other.

-Letting problems be in the past, not the present after they have been forgiven

This loving way of living IS salvation. That is the message today and always.

May God's peace be with you all this evening and forever. Amen.

