



The God Who Washes Feet

John 13:1-5 (NRSV) 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. 2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5 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.

1. Jesus constantly turns expectations UPSIDE DOWN.

Luke 22:24-27 (NRSV) A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. 25 But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. 26 But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

2. Jesus show us that true POWER comes from GIVING IT AWAY.

John 13:12-17 (NRSV) 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? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Matthew 23:11-12 (TLB) The more lowly your service to others, the greater you are. To be the greatest, be a servant. 12 But those who think themselves great shall be disappointed and humbled; and those who humble themselves shall be exalted.

3. Jesus is our EXAMPLE of how TO LOVE.

1 John 3:16-18 (NRSV) We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Matthew 25:37-40 (NRSV) Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

John 13:34-35 (NRSV) I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Additional Notes...

scriptures that relate

Monday: Philippians 2:1-11

Wednesday: John 13:12-17

Friday: Matthew 20:1-16

Tuesday: Luke 22:14-28

Thursday: Isaiah 53

Saturday: Luke 14:7-24

small groups—talk it over

1. What was something that didn't meet your expectations (good or bad)? How did that change your experience?
2. Are there areas in your own life where you draw the line? Is there anything below you that you wouldn't do?
3. In our world today, what does it look like to give away our power in order to lift others up? Talk about ways we can love like Jesus in our community and our culture.
4. The Jewish leaders expected a conquering king to come overthrow Rome and lead their people with power. Jesus subverts that idea by taking on the role of a servant to establish His kingdom. In what ways are we expecting a powerful hero when we should be looking to serve others around us?
5. How does receiving Communion remind you of God's love for you and how you should love others?

missions prayer requests

Monday: Today we give God praises for His grace, mercy, love and forgiveness.

Tuesday: Pray that God raises up those who would like to serve Him through missions.

Wednesday: Pray for Life Choices Pregnancy Center. They need a new location they can afford.

Thursday: Pray for an opportunity to start a Good News Club at Rocky Mountain Elementary.

Friday: Pray for the missionaries that serve all over the world as they share the Gospel.

Saturday: Please pray for the Missions Council Leadership Team as we seek the Lord's guidance.