

Lent Devotion for Thursday, April 6

## John 13:1-17; 31-35

### THE WAY OF SELF-LESS LOVE

*“For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”*

At the Last Supper and just days before Jesus was crucified, he washed his disciples' feet. Foot washing was a common act performed by a servant when a guest entered a home from the dusty roads. Jesus explained his unconventional actions by saying, “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet” (John 13:14). Using foot washing as a symbol of hospitality (Genesis 18:4; I Timothy 5:10), humility (John 13:1-5), and spiritual cleansing (Titus 3:5), Jesus modeled the way of self-less love.

Today some churches continue to observe the practice of foot washing. The call of Jesus in this practice of foot washing is to display a lifestyle of humble service and love. He moves us away from our casual understanding of love and service. In John 13, Jesus loves and washes Judas' feet even though he knew he would go on to betray Him. Here, Jesus demonstrates a standard of love much higher than our standard. His command is for us to serve and love as he has loved.

Jesus left his Father and gave his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). Though equal with God, Jesus left his Father's side to wash us from our sins (Revelations 1:5). As we look toward Resurrection Sunday, how can we stand in the power and love of Christ (Psalm 40:1; Ephesians 3:17)? Imagine Christ's love on display in our families, communities, our nation, and the world, if each of us practice this kind of service and love.

*Lord and teacher, on this Maundy Thursday, thank you for guiding my feet in peaceful ways and setting me on a path of service and love. May I learn from your self-less example of foot washing to live out your new commandment to love.*