

## Maundy Thursday Worship, April 9, 2020

Something out of the ordinary is happening in our Gospel for tonight.

The one they call teacher... Lord,  
the one who turned water into wine,  
the one who raised Lazarus from the grave...  
gets up from the Passover meal,  
ties a towel around his waist,  
pours water into a basin,  
and begins to wash 12 pairs of feet.

I wonder, how long it takes to wash 12 pairs of feet? I wonder if Jesus had a conversation with each of them? We know he did with Peter for sure. What did Jesus say to Judas as he washed his feet?

Footwashing was the job of the household slave for guests. Here, Jesus turns the tables on the typical display of power and authority by taking on the role of the lowest person in the household... the slave.

Jesus says, “<sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

So what does footwashing look like in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic? Where are you seeing footwashing happen these days? I see it in small and big ways. In your homes, on the sidewalks, windows, doors, fences, trees. People in essential businesses are washing my feet. My brother told me this week that he thinks the grocery store and restaurant workers are also the real heroes. If you think about it, many of our High School students are feeding us right now. Our health workers are putting their lives on the line. That is footwashing.

Last week I asked for pictures or images of love and hope that you are seeing. Things that encourage others or bring a smile to your face. Check out our Maundy Thursday worship on Youtube or Facebook to see the examples we received.

At the end of this section Jesus gives the disciples a new commandment. “That you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Just as I have loved you, love one another. The love here Jesus is talking about is “Agape” in the original Greek. It is a love without condition. The love God has for us. We will never measure up to Jesus’ love. We don’t deserve the love God has for us in Jesus Christ. And Yet God still gives it. At that table, Jesus knew Judas would betray him and Peter would deny him. And yet he still had grace for them.

God’s love is abundant for us. It takes the form of grace and forgiveness. We all need forgiveness for things you have done or left undone during quarantine? Make the first move. Don’t wait for someone else. Take the time to forgive each other and yourself. It is not easy living in close quarters. Plus, we can’t expect to do this quarantine thing perfectly. We need to have grace for one another.

Amen