

"MAUNDY THURSDAY MANDATE"

Maundy Thursday Meditation

Hello Everyone,

Pastor Grant and Pastor Steven have done a great job this holy week, helping us to trace the recorded events in the life of Jesus between Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday. Today, Thursday is my turn. Thursday of Holy Week is referred to as Maundy Thursday. Maundy comes from a Latin word meaning "order, decree, mandate, or instruction." The main event of the day for Jesus is what we call "THE LORD'S SUPPER" or 'THE LAST SUPPER.'" (*I invite you to join us for a Maundy Thursday service online today any time after 4 PM*).

All four gospels include an account of the supper, all with different perspectives and details. John's account includes the familiar story of the foot washing, along with the command:

**"I HAVE SET 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."**

There is the instruction and there is the reason Thursday is referred to as Maundy Thursday. From John's account, the story of the foot washing took place before any of them sat down to eat the meal or share the bread and the cup. There are several important details included:

1. **John 13:1 - "Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love."** The full extent of His love began with the humiliation of the foot washing and ended with the humiliation of the crucifixion.

"THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS: JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN HIS LOFE FOR US. AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES OFR OUR BROTHERS." 1 John 3:16

2. **John 13:2 - The evening meal was being served.** Everyone was in the room with dirty feet, sitting on the floor, not in chairs, but on the floor, each man sitting in such a way their own feet were in the face of the man sitting next to them.

The reason no one had washed their feet was because this was a borrowed room. There was no servant at the door to wash the feet of the guests AND none of the disciples was willing to humble themselves and become a servant who washed feet. In fact, Luke 22: 24 records that 'a dispute arose among them as to which of them was greatest.' I am guessing that the dispute was caused by the need for a servant to do the foot washing. "I'm not washing your feet." "I am greater than you are." "You should be washing my feet." Thus, the argument began and thus the argument continued as the disciples reclined at the table sharing the last supper with Jesus.

3. John 13:3 - Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power...got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciple's feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

Here is the greatest, showing the full extent of His love starting with foot washing and ending with crucifixion. He is washing the feet of Judas who He already knows has made a deal to betray Him that very night. He is washing the feet of Peter who He already knows is going to deny Him before the rooster crows three time. He is washing the feet of the rest of the disciples who He already knows are all going to fall away. Nevertheless, their need at the moment is to have someone wash their feet. Jesus gets up and meets the need.

John 13:12 - "When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

Jesus not only sets us an example; He also provides the resource. We do not just serve because Jesus serves, we serve because we have been served by Jesus, empowered to care and do for those who do not deserve it any more than we did when Jesus served us.

Maunder Thursday. Instruction Thursday. A Mandate is given not only to remember the body of Jesus broken for us and the blood of Jesus shed for us, but also the full extent of His love as a demonstration and a provision for us.

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"NOW THAT YOU KNOW THESE THINGS, YOU WILL BE BLESSED IF YOU DO THEM."**

Thursday, April 9, 2020

by: Pastor Ken

In Christ,

Pastor Ken

1. IN WHAT SENSE IS JESUS COMMANDING WE 'WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET?'
2. WHOSE FEET DO YOU STRUGGLE TO WASH?
3. RECALL DETAILS OF WHAT JESUS HAS ALREADY DONE FOR YOU AND KNOW YOU ARE LOVED!



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