

HOLY WEEK

WITH NORTHWAY CHURCH

Day 4 - Wednesday

Bible Reading: John 13:1-20

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he 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 disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 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?" he asked them. "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. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.' "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

Bible Reading: Matthew 26:26-29

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

It was during Jesus' last meal with His disciples that the unthinkable happened: Jesus got up and began washing their feet. This wasn't customary. But by doing this, Jesus was demonstrating their need to be spiritually cleansed, and showing them how He expected them to treat each other. Here are two things we can learn from His example:

Stoop to Serve

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He had to bend over to serve them. This wasn't something a teacher in His position was expected to do.

But Jesus knew that to lead well, you need to serve well. To have the most impact, you must willingly minister to the people around you.

Show up and show grace

Washing the disciples' feet was a practical way for Jesus to demonstrate His love, but it also symbolized their need to be cleansed spiritually. By serving them, He illustrated that He was the one who could - and would - clean them. All they needed to do was accept His help.

When we accept Jesus, we receive His grace. And when that happens, He allows us to show grace to others by practically meeting the needs of the people He places in our lives.

Today, ask God to reveal who He would like you to encourage today. Allow Him to help you reflect Jesus' servant-hearted love to those around you.