



FAITH matters

March 10, 2025

The season of Lent is upon us, and so many thoughts are circling through my head. The image that sticks with me the most is from John's gospel, Chapter 13. Jesus is in a room with a large table where his disciples will gather for a meal. The 12 disciples will enter the room after walking through the dry, dusty countryside for days. They take their places around the table. There is a pitcher and a basin on the floor with a towel nearby, but no one volunteers to use these items.

So Jesus gets up from the meal, removes his outer clothing, picks up the basin and begins to wash his disciples' feet, one filthy foot after another. One by one Jesus kneels in front of each disciple, unlaces a sandal and gently lifts a foot, places it in the basin, covers it with water and begins to bathe it.

Imagine 12 dirty disciples after days of walking through dirt. Think of the stink! Jesus works his way down the row. This was a job usually handled by the lowest of servants, but Jesus does it. The one before whom all nations will one day kneel now kneels before his disciples.

Hours before his own death, Jesus' main concern is only this. He wants his disciples to know how much he loves them. Jesus knows the future of the feet he is washing. These feet will run for cover at the sight of a Roman sword. Only one pair of feet will not abandon Jesus in the garden because Judas will abandon Jesus that very night. What an incredible moment when Jesus quietly lifts the feet of his betrayer and washes them. He knows what these men are going

to do. By morning they will bury their heads in shame. They will look down at their feet, disgusted with themselves. And when they do, Jesus wants them to remember how he knelt before them and washed their feet. He forgave their sin before they ever committed it. Jesus offered mercy before they even sought it.

Jesus said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash one another's feet."

I am not suggesting you and I should run around washing feet, but can we forgive those who have hurt us? Can we offer ourselves and our resources to people in need? Can we remember the love Jesus had for His people and share that love even with those whom we don't care for? What can we do to share the love Jesus has for us? Let us do something.....

~Written by The Rev. Pam Pendexter

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