

Response

What Jesus does in washing the feet of his disciples has cosmic, pervasive significance. It means that *everyone* who follows Jesus is to be a servant.

What if Jesus really does love us the way He talks about in this farewell discourse? And what if really buying into how deeply He loves us is the means by which we'll finally bear the fruit that He called us to bear? What if this is what's missing in your life and in mine, that down deep, we're not really convinced that He really, really does love us?

It's a final conversation with Jesus. This is what's most on His heart as He prepares to die. He wants to work that miracle in your heart and my heart that we would truly believe how much He loves us, to show us the full extent of His love, so that, believing that to the core, we will bear the fruit for which He saved us.

¹MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). John MacArthur Sermon Archive. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

²Hamilton, J. M., Jr., & Vickers, B. J. (2019). *John—Acts*. (I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar, Eds.) (Vol. IX, p. 219). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

³MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). John MacArthur Sermon Archive. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

⁴Hamilton, J. M., Jr., & Vickers, B. J. (2019). *John—Acts*. (I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar, Eds.) (Vol. IX, pp. 219–220). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

⁵Hamilton, J. M., Jr., & Vickers, B. J. (2019). *John—Acts*. (I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar, Eds.) (Vol. IX, p. 220). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

What Jesus does in washing the feet of his disciples has cosmic, pervasive significance. It means that *everyone* who follows Jesus is to be a servant. The most exalted and influential Christians, those who work the levers of power, know all the inner stories, have all the powerful friends, and receive the choicest opportunities, are to follow the foot-washer in the way they exercise influence and do ministry. Just as the lofty are called to serve in all their loftiness, so also the most menial and lowly servant has his dusty duties dignified by the humility of the Master. The fact that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples means that those who wipe down tables and sweep floors and change diapers and clean toilets for the church are engaging in the exalted lowliness of Christlike service.

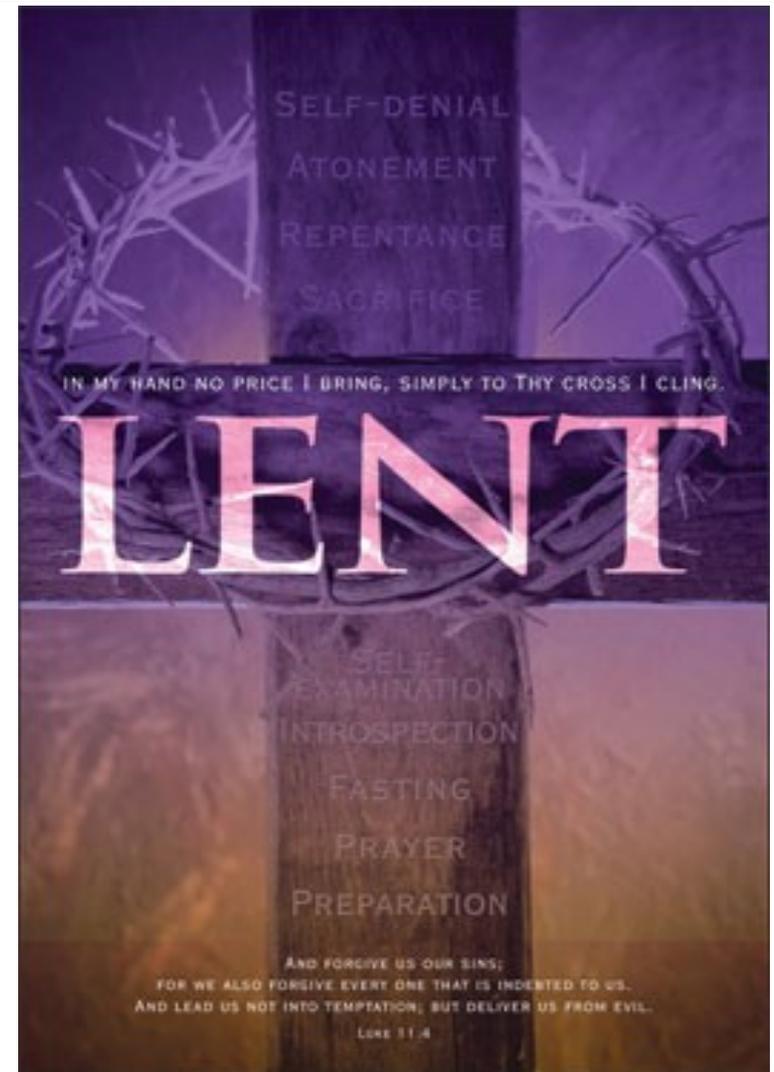
Hamilton, J. M., Jr., & Vickers, B. J. (2019). *John—Acts*. (I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar, Eds.) (Vol. IX, p. 222). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.



February 21, 2021

10:30 A.M.

A Lasting Conversation With Jesus



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

The Doxology

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”.Bridges/Thring/Elvey

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism* , Q. #32

Hymn of Praise: “Victor’s Crown”. . . .Zschech/Houghton/Jobe

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:38-39

Song of Renewal: “He Knows my Name” Tommy Walker

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: *John 13:1-20*

Prayer

The Sermon: The Farewell Discourses

“A Lasting Conversation With Jesus”

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Words of Institution:

Hymn: “The Power of the Cross”. Getty/Townend

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

“In Christ Alone Medley”. Getty/Townend

Benediction

The Atmosphere in the Room

- **The atmosphere in the large upstairs room was tense, unhappy, uncertain.** The evening had gone badly from the start.
- **A Broken Silence**
Typically, it was Simon Peter who broke the silence. And as Jesus approached to wash his feet, Peter curled up his legs and pointed out the inappropriateness of the Master’s action with what he had thought was a tactful question – ‘Lord, are You going to wash my feet?’
- **Open confrontation**
For a moment, the still air was charged with suspense. Did Jesus not recognize that Peter was speaking out of love?

Why did Peter object?

Peter does not understand because he is focused on the physical reality of the footwashing, failing to grasp its spiritual or symbolic significance.

By washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus has given an enacted preview of what he will do for his people when he makes them clean through his death on the cross. Jesus, the greatest, will do for the world what it does not deserve. If anyone does not receive the cleansing Jesus provides, he has no part with Jesus. What Jesus does for his disciples will cleanse them completely.⁴

That’s the way it is for most of us. It’s hard to let Jesus love us, to simply believe that He delights in us, that He accepts us, that He loves us that deeply.

The Challenge of the Servant

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

Only the death of Jesus has atoning, cleansing power, but those who follow Jesus are to give their lives in service to others as he did. Only Jesus is the King who washes the feet of his disciples, but his disciples are to serve as he did.⁵ If we are to count ourselves as followers of Christ, there must be humble service in our lives. We must be people of the towel.

God’s Gracious Provision 2/14/2021

Offering: \$10,338.94

Attendance: 48

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Appointed to Bear Fruit

John 15:16 (ESV)

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”

Seven times through this farewell discourse the follower of Jesus is appointed to bear fruit.

We are saved to serve. This is our purpose. And the rest of the farewell discourse is going to show us how we’re equipped, how we’re supported, how we’re enabled to serve and bear fruit. How union with Christ is what equips us and emboldens us for it. How we’re going to encounter the hatred of the world as we seek to bear fruit.

Deeply Loved and Treasured

“having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end ...”

These are His own people. Each one of them, a love gift from the Father. Each one chosen by the Father. Each one a divine expression of affection for the Son. Each one beloved by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.¹

You’ll never be a fruit bearer until you understand how deeply loved and treasured by Him you already are.

The idea of love, the word “love” is found thirty-four times in the farewell discourse. It’s where the discourse begins. Chapter 13 verse 1, Jesus, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. Knowing that we are Christ’s own is even more glorious when we realize how great is the love of Christ for his own. This is the theme of these chapters: **“having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”**

” and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.”

We have clear expectations for people who matter as much as Jesus, and those expectations do not include setting their hands to menial acts usually left to the lowest of servants. Against everything we expect, Jesus enacts an epitome of his whole life in verses 4–5.²

Out of the depths of His own pain and suffering, anticipating His own dying for sin and then anticipating the unbelievable heights of His entry back into glory, His heart is as wide as His own and He embraces them all and He feels love for them.³

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT, February 21 6:15-7:15 P.M.

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Coventry-Warwick Ministerium

2021 Lenten Services

7:00 P.M. on YouTube

The link for the service will be on the GCC website.
Services can be viewed anytime after they are posted.

February 24	Pastor Jim Jannotti
March 3	Pastor Cindy McKinley
March 10	Pastor Denny Emrick
March 17	Pastor Keith Price
March 24	Pastor Rick Knarr

Good Friday, April 2 at 2:00 P.M. Pastor Mark Muthler

Dried Play-Doh by Scotty Smith

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Cor. 4:7

Lord Jesus, the truth in this one little verse is incredibly freeing—but difficult to hold on to. You inhabit our weakness ...

- Like the aroma of life in a canister of dried Play-Doh
- Like living water in a canteen of crinkled tin foil
- Like eternal hope in frail, faith-little people like us
- Like inexhaustible kindness oozing from the cracks of our brokenness

Like Rembrandt’s “Return of the Prodigal” in a picture-frame of pine needles
Hallelujah, Jesus, you are the glorious Point, and we are the honored pointers.

Though few of us are facing the exact dangers Paul did, we do relate to his experience of being hard pressed and perplexed (2 Cor. 4:8-11). Difficult stories, challenging relationships, chronic neediness, uncontrollable outcomes... these things tax our limits, sabotage our self-sufficiency, and drive us to you again and again.

None of us is expected to be awesome. Awesomeness belongs to you. **All** of us are called to own our limits, rest in your love, and trust your sovereignty. Help us do so. As this weekend unfolds, grant us grace to boast in our weaknesses, and rest in your everything.

May your beauty, goodness, and kindness be revealed through our brokenness. Increase our gentleness, humility, and peace, Jesus. So very Amen we pray, in your tender and triumphant name .

Prayer/Praise.February 21, 2021

- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim. He lost his wife six months ago, and he is in the hospital with a heart issue and will need an operation. Pray that God will speak to his heart and for salvation for Jim.
- Pray for Jenn, Rick Hunter's sister. She was in an accident on February 11th and has a partially punctured lung, four broken ribs and a bruised spleen. She is recovering in the Hospital after surgery. They removed two pints of blood and some clots from her left lung. Pray for God's healing for Jenn.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Justine is home from the hospital. Justine has colon cancer, which has spread. Pray for wisdom for the doctors to have a treatment plan for her. Please continue to shower Justine with cards and prayers. Justine Schumaker, 217 Cross Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.
- Pray for Susan Williams' father, Greg Whedbee. He is at Reading hospital with groin pain. He has just gotten over a bladder infection but still cannot eat and is in pain.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's friend, Amanda. She had an emotional breakdown, and the family is asking for prayer for her to get the help she needs in the hospital. Pray that God places a Christian counselor in her life.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Jonnie. She had a CAT Scan done and found she has three blood clots. Jonnie will be on blood thinners for three months. Pray for healing for Jonnie.
- Pray for continued healing for the father of Koreen Mace and Gwen Conrad. Pray for Gwen as she has been caring for their father, who lives with Gwen and her family.
- Praise that Mike Row is feeling much better. His shoulder hurts a little, but sometimes movement is not very good. Please continue to pray for healing for Mike.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman, who is still in a cast. It is hard for her to do the smallest things. Pray for continued healing and that Dawn will be able to return to work.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised, as they will be helping in the capital with special needs children and teens.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy.

Message

The Farewell Discourses A Lasting Conversation with Jesus

John 13:1–20 (ESV)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

A Challenge

What would happen in your life if you saturated yourself with the final words of Jesus to His followers on the night before He was crucified? What might He do? What might the Holy Spirit do in your life as you read His words to His disciples over and over again?