

Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday, April 17, 2025

“More Than Words Can Say”

John 13:1-17

The first 12 chapters of John’s Gospel have been called the “Book of _____,” referring to the 7 signs that portray Jesus as the Son of God. However, in chapter 13, we move to the Upper Room—to the “Book of _____,”—in which Jesus reveals something of His true glory, and His relationship with His Father in Heaven.

This evening we enter the inner sanctuary with Jesus and His disciples, as He prepares for _____.

John uses almost _____ language here to describe what Jesus is about to do in His battle against evil, sin, and death.

The _____ with which He set His face towards Jerusalem, and His unwavering _____ to fulfill God’s plan of salvation, both echo the words of the prophet.

“I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.” (Isaiah 50:7)

Jesus’ determination to go to Jerusalem reflects not only His _____ to the Father, but His willingness to lay down His _____ for the sake of the world.

However, in order to prepare His disciples for the battle that’s about to transpire, Jesus doesn’t offer them a pep talk or words of encouragement, but rather an _____ that was totally unexpected, and more than words could ever say.

This action becomes _____ (an active parable), something far greater than just washing feet, as Jesus uses it as a teaching moment, pointing to the very reason that He came in the first place.

“...serve and not be served.” (Mark 10:45)

It’s also symbolic of the very _____ of a disciple and servant.

“...who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself...” (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet on the night of His arrest, is a concrete _____ of what Jesus “taking the form of a slave” actually looks like.

3 REASONS JESUS WAS ABLE DO PERFORM THIS ACT

Reason #1. _____.

“Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father....” (John 13:1)

When we’re facing pain, or when the advent of something difficult is upon us, it’s easy to justify focussing on _____, and to allow other people to love and _____ us.

Jesus thoughts when He’s on the threshold of His own pain and suffering are not on Himself, but on His _____...and their dirty feet!

Sometimes we’re called to serve others when we’re _____ by our own tears. Sometimes we’re called to serve others when we can’t see the way forward, when there’s darkness all around us, when we’re _____ by our own difficulties.

Jesus knows all this, and He still performs this selfless act. He’s thinking about _____, He’s thinking about His disciples and their needs.

Reason #2. _____.

“...having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” (Jn 13:1)

These twelve guys are so slow to _____, so unteachable and uncomprehending, their vision so earth-bound and _____; and as the crisis deepens and things get worse, they’ll deny Jesus and run away. There’s something profoundly _____ about these guys. And yet, despite all that, despite how fickle, frail, and fleeting their faith is, Jesus still _____ them.

We need to understand that this isn’t a _____ love. Jesus chose these men, He’s been with them for three years. He knows all about them.

He sees them in their worst possible light and He still loves them. He’s going to _____ Himself, He’s going to lay down His life, and He’s going to die for them.

He loved them, not just to the end of His earthly life, but to the extreme _____ in that sense. He loved them, knowing what that love was ultimately going to cost Him: unimaginable _____ and pain.

He loved them so much that He’ll endure the torments of a _____ man. He’ll become _____ and identify fully with it.

Jesus will be dealt with as _____ deserves. Sin will be condemned in His body,

and cursed in His person. There'll be no sparing of Him. There'll be no mitigation of the _____ of God; it'll be poured out upon Him in all of its _____.

And in the darkness there'll be no light. Even the sun will refuse to shine, as Jesus becomes the One upon whom God cannot look, and a veil will be drawn over His _____ of His own Sonship so that He doesn't cry, "My Father, My Father, but My God, My God!"

Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the very end—to that point where the last drop of God's wrath will be experienced, no let up, no _____.

Reason #3. _____.

"...Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God." (John 13:3)

What a great statement on the _____ nature of Jesus. Jesus' service came out of a deep sense of His own _____, and a knowledge of where home was.

God was His _____ place from which He could go, do hard things, and then return.

Jesus was firm in His identity and in God's love for Him, and everything else _____ from that.

2 IMPORTANT THINGS

- That the desire to _____ lies at the very heart of God.
- That in order for us to serve, we need to know _____, where we've come from, and where we're going.

Why do we serve?

Does our service come out of a desire for approval, fear of punishment, or just rote duty and tradition?

**Are we trying to get something in return or to earn our way into heaven?
Is it just what we've always done?**

"I gave you an example that you should do as I did to you." (John 13:15)

This is the heart of Christian _____, the heart of what it means to be a Christian—a willingness to _____ ourselves even as Jesus humbled Himself, and serve.

Humility = Tap-ei-noo =

Humility, however, is key to _____. In order to serve others, we need to _____ ourselves to them, to stoop low, to put their _____ ahead of our own needs and, more importantly, our _____. We need to think _____ of ourselves and more of others.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

The disciples were willing to fight for the _____—for places of _____ in Jesus' kingdom—but no one was willing to fight for the _____.

In light of Jesus' example, in light of the cross, in light of the enormity of the love of Christ for us, is there anything that you're not willing to do for your brother or sister in Christ?



On the night before He was betrayed, with full knowledge of the _____ that lay ahead, Jesus didn't deliver a final _____. He didn't gather His disciples for one last strategy session, or even offer them words of deep theological explanation or _____.

Instead, He knelt. He poured water into a basin. And He washed their feet. Jesus, fully aware that His _____ had come, fully aware of the _____ He carried to the very end, fully aware that He had come from God and was returning to God—stooped low in an act of stunning _____.

This was the last thing Jesus did to actively _____ us. From this point on, the salvation story is not just about what Jesus did for us, but what we _____ to Him.

This is the shape of divine _____: not lofty, _____, or reserved, but humble, kneeling, serving, _____. This is the kind of love that _____ hearts better than words ever could. And this is the love He calls us to _____.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?...If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:12-14)