

## Maunday Thursday

13 1-2 Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was suppertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal.

3-6 Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron. When he got to Simon Peter, Peter said, "Master, *you* wash *my* feet?"

7 Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but it will be clear enough to you later."

8 Peter persisted, "You're not going to wash my feet—ever!"

Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you can't be part of what I'm doing."

9 "Master!" said Peter. "Not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!"

10-12 Jesus said, "If you've had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you're clean. But not every one of you." (He knew who was betraying him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you.") After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

12-17 Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

John 13. 1-17. from The Message

Have you ever had a bath or shower after a hard day?

How did you feel?

How do you think the disciples felt about what Jesus does to them?

What challenge does Jesus give us in this passage?

How will you respond?

What picture of Jesus are you seeing in this reading?

You may want to write your thoughts about this down. It is called journal-ing and it is very 'in' at the moment; or you may well not. Either is fine, after all this is your journey.

There are other readings set for today if you want to read some more.  
Exodus 12.1-14: Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19: 1 Corinthians 11. 23-26.

## **A Prayer**

**Lord,  
will I let you wash my feet?**

**Will I let you wet and soften  
all that is ingrained, intransigent  
and hard to shift?**

**Will I let you clean each crease,  
each wrinkle, each stain,  
each mark I cannot quite erase?**

**Lord, don't stop at  
Freshening my feet;  
clean, deeply, every part -  
my thoughts, my choices  
and, especially,  
my heart.**

*Ian Fosten*

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