

Maundy Thursday, what is it and why is it important? Why do we come to church then?

On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, as he taught us to break bread in remembrance of him and he washed his disciples' feet.

Wait, what? Foot washing? EWWWWW!!! Feet stink! They are nasty! Yep! They are.

If you think feet of today are bad, then you need to go back to Jesus' time. Sandals were worn, open sandals. Dirt roads, no sanitation, mud, and whatever else was left where the people walked. EWWW!

Jesus in turn humbled himself as the lowest of servants to do the same for his beloved disciples. Our Lord, on his knees to wash the stinky, dirty feet of his followers. Why? Because as He has said in Mark 10:43-44, "whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all". In John 13 He took off his robe and tied a towel around himself, then poured water in a basin in order to wash their feet. On his knees. Think about this. When have you ever thought of Jesus on his knees when not in prayer? Here He is doing the job of the lowliest servant. He humbled himself. To the lowest position of the time. He even told his disciples to continue to do so – John 13:14-17. Basically, since I have done this so must you to each other. By doing so, humbling ourselves, we will be blessed.

I can say from my own experience, that when I first had my feet washed, and understood what Jesus had done, I was moved to tears. I was truly humbled. Then, putting myself in His place, I washed another person's feet. I was weary of this, but as soon as I was on my knees, in His place, I knew what he meant to be a slave to others. To be in the lowest position. To be humbled.

Jesus gave us a new commandment – to love one another as He has loved us. To humble ourselves and to wash each other's feet. To be where He was on that night. Why is it important to imitate Jesus? When we become Christ like, then Christ is in our hearts, we can *feel* him there.

I invite you, all of you, to participate in this act of serving and to be served as Jesus himself has served us, humbly and with an open heart.

--Lenny Shepherd, Lent 2020