

WORD FOR THE DAY: Humility

April 9

“Have this attitude in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:5-8

There may be few attitudes that go against our human nature more than humility. It certainly is rare in today’s world, and is often even looked down upon as a sign of weakness. Yet when we look at the life of Jesus, we consistently see the picture of a humble servant.

Take a few minutes and think about the familiar story of the evening of the Last Supper. Jesus knows that “his hour had come” – that the moments ahead would be filled with agony as He faces betrayal, sentencing, scourging, crucifixion, death, and the spiritual weight of taking all of our sins upon Himself. But even in these final minutes with those closest to Him, He serves them with astounding humility. He gets up from the table, ties a towel around himself, pours water into a basin and washes their feet. This was difficult for his disciples to take in and understand, as it is for us still. But this was His nature, as it is God’s.

John Ortberg says “When Jesus came in the form of a servant, he was not disguising who God is. He was revealing who God is.”

In John chapter 13, the account of that night continues. *“After He had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.’”*

As we confess Jesus as our Lord and Teacher today, let us follow in obedience His example of humble servanthood.

REFLECTION

- Who is God prompting you to humbly serve today?
- What prideful attitudes do you need to confess to God so that humility can grow in you?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord, You are the ultimate servant and example of humility. Point out the places in my life where I am prideful, so that I can confess those to you. Place a heart of servanthood and humility in me, and help me to walk in the opportunities You give me today to serve those around me for Your glory. Amen.