

# Passion Week *Devotionals*

**Maundy Thursday**  
by Jessica Heatherly

**Read | John 13:1-35**

When I first saw “Maundy Thursday” I didn’t really understand what it meant on a personal level, so I spent a week in my Bible and looking into podcasts about it. Turns out, “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “command.” The day centers around Jesus washing his disciples’ feet and his “new” command he gave them: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

In this season of life loving people the way Jesus calls us to can be really challenging at times. It’s easy to say we love people but actually living that out (putting others first, being patient, serving people when it’s inconvenient) that’s where it gets real and tough, but the most meaningful. After my reflection I am realizing I don’t do nearly as well as I thought I did. That has been humbling for me, but in a good way.

When I really sit and think about it, I have not consistently loved others the way Jesus has loved me. I get caught up in my own day to day priorities and sometimes I just don’t take the time to show up for people the way I should. Even with my own family, I know there are moments I could do better- been more present, more patient and more intentional with my words and actions, heck I don’t even show up for myself sometimes, let alone Jesus.

It can be a real struggle to admit that to yourself, but when you put it into consideration what Jesus actually did...it really helps put it all into perspective. He still chose to serve and love despite knowing everything he was going to endure. Washing disciples feet was considered a servants job and yet He did it anyway before going to the cross for us. This truly shows a different kind of deep love than we would typically think about when thinking about what love is and what it is supposed to look like. Jesus proudly made his choices for us, knowing the pain that was coming.

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It's heavy, raw and real which brings sorrow yet at the same time it brings me a lot of peace and gratitude knowing that He loved us enough to do so. I truly cried reading through these scriptures while studying this.

Reflecting on this makes me think more on the people in my own life, past and present. I have been cared for, loved, supported, understood when it has mattered most even at times I may not have recognized it at the moment. Looking back there are lots of times people were "washing my feet" in a way through their own actions towards me.

I am starting to realize more that I am called to do the same for others around me. It doesn't have to be perfect, or done in a huge gesture. Even the smallest actions in quiet moments can have been meaning. Listening to someone, caring even when it isn't really convenient, checking in and just real and present is what matters.

I fall short and I definitely don't have it all figured out, but I honestly think that's part of it-recognizing your shortcomings, accepting it, yet still choosing to try and do something about it. This is where I turn to God asking for help to grow in this aspect of my life. His command to "love one another as I have loved you" is not just a suggestion, it's something that sets us apart-something we should be striving for daily, even when it gets hard. We should accept the invitation to be apart of something bigger than ourselves.

The realization that's Jesus knew one of his disciples was going to betray him yet he still washed his feet, broke bread with him and forgave him, makes our worldly problems seem so irrelevant. If he can forgive and die for us and allow us the Grace and mercy he has, we as humans should be doing the same thing for each other.

## **Prayer & Reflection:**

- *In what ways have other people loved you as Jesus has loved you?*
- *Spend time reflecting on how "Jesus has loved you."*
- *Is there an "enemy" or "traitor" that you need to wash the feet of today?*
- *How can you "love others as Jesus has loved you" this week?*