

Scripture Reading

3Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" 7Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." 11For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

John 13:I-II

Devotional

It is the night before Jesus' excruciating death on the cross. Jesus knows what is coming over the next several hours. Jesus also knows that God has given all things into his hands. What Jesus does with his hands next has left a powerful stamp on what it looks like to be one of his followers. Jesus uses his hands to take off his outer garments, pick up a towel, and tie that towel around his waist. Next, he pours water into a basin and then takes each of the disciples' feet into his hands and washes each of them, including Judas, the one who would betray him. On the night before Jesus' death, he used the same hands that had been infused with all power and authority from God to wash the feet of his disciples and serve others.

What would you do with your last night on earth? Would you do some of your favorite activities with your friends and let them take care of all the details? Whatever you would choose, the scene of Jesus washing the disciples feet is not merely a demonstration of how we should live at the end of our lives, but our entire lives. We are to live as servants for the glory of God. We have been filled with the Holy Spirit to use our hands similarly to Jesus. Dallas Willard says it like this, "Being a servant is a matter of our whole lives. We live as servants, receiving everything we need from the Kingdom of God. We don't keep our kingdom to ourselves, living only for self and occasionally doing an act of service. We live as servants, and as we do that, it frees us to enter into a different attitude toward life." God had given all things, all power and authority into Jesus' hands and Jesus used his hands to serve others. What are you doing with your hands? Are you using them to strengthen your own kingdom or to serve others in the name of Jesus?

Response

Take some time to think through these questions:

-Are you more prone to serve or be served? Why?

-What gifts has God given into your hands that you can share with others currently?

-Spend some time in prayer asking God who in your life you could serve today.

