

# THE PASSING OF THE TOWEL

Foundations Series (Part 4)

FBC Worship Services (Aug 26, 2018) Corey Rose

## I. AN UNUSUAL STORY

### A. Jesus... washes dirty feet

*It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.<sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;<sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.<sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (13:1-6 ESV)*

### B. Peter says,... "You're not washing my feet!"

*He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."<sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. (John 13:6-11 ESV)*

### C. Jesus... explains why He washed their dirty feet.

*When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.<sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.<sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.<sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.<sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.<sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:1-17 ESV)*

## II. SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

1. What Jesus does isn't **glamorous**.
2. What Jesus does is **unannounced**.
3. What Jesus does is **unexpected**.

4. What Jesus does is **willful**.
5. What Jesus does isn't with **embarrassment**.
6. What Jesus does isn't **selective**.
7. What Jesus does isn't **understood**.
8. What Jesus does isn't **appreciated**.
9. What Jesus does is out of **love**.  
*Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13:1b)*
10. What Jesus does is **set an example for us to follow**.  
*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:15 ESV)*

## III. SOME THINGS FOR US TO CONSIDER

### A. Jesus shows us that true greatness is not found in...

- Position.
- Power.
- Knowledge.
- Achievement

It's found in... humbly serving others in love.

Even those we lead—we lead by serving and we serve by leading.

### B. Jesus reminds us He came to serve because He really does love us.

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 ESV; Luke 22:27; Phil 2:3-11)*

### C. Jesus commands us to love one another like He loves us.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (John 13:34 ESV; Gal. 5:13)*

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:1-3 NIV)*

### D. Jesus promises us there is great blessing in serving others.

*Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:17)*

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

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1. What Jesus does isn't \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What Jesus does is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What Jesus does is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What Jesus does is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What Jesus does is without \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What Jesus does isn't \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What Jesus does isn't \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What Jesus does isn't \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What Jesus does is out of \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13:1b)*
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### B. Jesus reminds us...

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