

John 13:1-17, 33-35 (NIV)

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.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² 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. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Sermon for May 18, 2025: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

In the ancient world, foot washing was not uncommon. The dry, dusty roads made it an essential part of everyday life. Washing someone else's feet not only symbolized humility but also served as a gesture of hospitality, welcoming guests to a home or meal.

- Who did Jesus welcome to this meal? Why do you think Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet? How might this gesture of hospitality through foot washing remove any barriers between Jesus and the disciples?
- Does his willingness to wash everyone's feet as teacher and Lord surprise you? Why or why not? How might Jesus' actions of welcome and hospitality be considered scandalous?
- In verse 12, Jesus asked a question: "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Discuss what you see Jesus doing in his meal, around the table, washing the disciples' feet. How do his actions go beyond mere performance and teaching to express who he is — his identity and character?

- After the foot washing, Jesus reveals his time with them is short and shares with them a new commandment. What is this new command? Based on Jesus example of love that evening, what should the disciples love look like?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

ACT ... responding to & applying what we know.

- Pastor Mark stated, "The *new command* to love one another means: No more **performing**. No more **acting**. No more **posing**. No more **pretending**. Loving others because that's who we are. Loving others because that's who God has made us to be."

Do you know someone who seems to love others easily ... because that is genuinely who they are? Share a time when you observed their love in action. How did the person they expressed love to respond — or if it was you, how did that make you feel?

- What excuses have you heard people give for not treating others with kindness and love? Name some of the biggest challenges or barriers to loving others that you have faced. Have you overcome them and learned to love? If so, what changed so you could love others like Jesus commands?
- In what way(s) did this passage stir your thinking? Does it challenge you to grow in your expression of love for God? Explain your answer.

BE ... living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.

Love in action is powerful. Moving beyond platitudes and hollow words to lovingly serve and meet people where they are is transformative.

Reread John 13:1-17, 31-35. With Jesus' *new command* to love one another in mind, REFLECT on your everyday, post-resurrection life. How are you doing in your obedience to this command? Is there someone the Holy Spirit is calling you to actively love?

Intentionally LOOK for one or two opportunities to love others this week. **MOVE** beyond the easy ways of loving and get active, physically serving another in love this week.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

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