

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing:

Introduction:

On the night of the passover, Jesus washed His disciple's feet. Ever since then, foot washing has been a way Christians have remembered both what Jesus did, but also what Jesus calls us to do! Below is a simple way to experience the blessing of foot washing, but also to enter into it's significance.



Preparation:

A bowl, a pitcher of water, towels.

Have each person that is participating, remove their shoes. The person that is washing the feet, kneels before them, and taking their foot/feet in their hand pours water over it with the other. As the water is being poured, the person blesses the person that is being washed. Blessings can be scriptures. They can be simple reminders of God's love for them. They can be requests or prayers to God for blessing on the person. Best thing is to keep them simple and make them personal! After the blessing, the person doing the washing dries the foot/feet with a towel. The following RITE can be used:



A SIMPLE RITE OF FOOT WASHING

Introduction:

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Participants: AMEN!

Leader: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, on the night of the Passover, you blessed your disciples by washing their feet. In humility, You served them by not only washing their

feet, but then, giving your life! In this event, you also commanded us to do likewise! So, as we remember how You washed their feet and as we engage in washing one another's feet, help us to be humble, and to take on the attitude of a servant and be willing to sacrifice so that others will know what You have done for us. We ask this in Jesus Name.

Participants: AMEN!

Leader: Tonight we hear from God's Word about Foot Washing. *(NOTE: the text can be read by the "leader" or one of the participants)*

The Text: John 13:3-17 (ESV)

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

READER: "This is the Word of the Lord"

Participants: "Thanks Be to God!"

Foot Washing:

The Leader bows before those being washed and as they wash their feet, they pronounce a blessing over them.

The leader dries their feet.

When all are completed, it is appropriate for one of the participants to wash the feet of the leader.

After ALL have been washed, the leader concludes:

Leader: We pray....

Heavenly Father, as we have been washed, we are reminded that in our baptism, You washed us clean from all our sins and that you connected us with the death and resurrection of Jesus. In this act, we are once again reminded that because of the sacrifice of Jesus, ALL our sins have been washed clean and we are covered by His grace and righteousness. Help us to serve one another in humility. Help us to share the good news of Jesus death and resurrection with each other and with our neighbor. And help us to live all the days you give us, for YOUR glory! We pray this in the Name of our Savior Jesus....Amen!

(NOTE: if desired, the leader could also end: "We pray this in the Name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, Who taught us to pray...."Our Father..." and conclude with the Lord's Prayer_

Participants: Amen!

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

Participants: "Thanks be to God!"

ALL: AMEN!

