

A bowl, a towel and some water

Maundy = Mandatum = commandment

A new commandment - that you love one another.

Love is vulnerable

Jesus knelt to wash his friends feet.

Imagine those feet, smelly, callused, dusty, thin, long

If you kneel you are more likely to be kicked in the teeth

Jesus washed the feet as a servant - a gentile!

One of those who had his feet washed was Judas and that is the vulnerability at the heart of love, its openness to betrayal.

Love is action

Jesus knew what was to come

He used a visual aid to get his message across

John focuses on Jesus' washing of the disciples feet and not the communion.

He is showing us that it is our attitude to each other that is important, rather than what we do.

We begin to see how love alters our view of our place in the world

Despite knowing the terror he was to face

Despite knowing one would betray him,

that the others would run away

Jesus washes their feet as a sign of the greatest love which there is.

Ave Verum Stabat mater - Karl Jenkins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kk63eX9hXIY>

Love is service

What were the disciples reactions

We know Peter's. Straight in with, not me Lord. You're my Lord you can't wash my feet.

How did the others feel?

embarrassed, guilty, puzzled, bemused, accepting

Jesus' answer shows us that love is about receiving as well as giving

Peter tries to stop him but, in his response,, Jesus is saying

I am doing this for you, each one of you

And if you let me wash you, I can cleanse, refresh every part of you, the sad parts, the lonely parts, the messy and muddy parts and all those parts you wish desperately could be healed.

They can be.

Taste my bread, drink my wine and let me wash you.

In Paradisum - Libera

***This was filmed at The Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall,
Bradwell***

<https://libera.org.uk/video/in-paradisum>

God is glorified in the act of foot washing, in service lovingly given and received.

As the meal draws to a close Jesus speaks of two things only – glory and love.

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once”. (John13:32)

Glorify = to elevate to celestial joy; to make glorious by bestowing honour and praise

It is the cross which brings glory to God. It is Jesus’ action, his passion and then his final words

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

So it is by our actions, our lives living out his command that God is glorified.

Use today to deepen an awareness of the God of love, through your senses. Listen and see in a deep focussed way.

When we are washing our hands as a protection against the virus, remember that Jesus himself washes us clean of our sins. When you wash your hands feel the touch of blessing.

Parce Mihi Domine

Jan Garbarek.

Forgive me Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_EZBfClFsg