

## HOLY THURSDAY

I would like us reflect on the reaction of Peter when Jesus comes around to wash his feet: **“You will never wash my feet.”**

We cant blame Peter for this reaction.

- Peter knows that servants wash the feet of their master. Masters do not wash the feet of their servants.
- Peter knows that teachers do not sit at the feet of their students.
- He knows that employers don't serve employees.
- ❖ And certainly, in his mind, the Messiah doesn't even touch the feet of disciples.

Peter's world is structured by **domination, power, and hierarchy.**

Our world is not so different from Peter's.

- Those who have power, wealth, intelligence, beauty, position are ministered to or washed.
- Those who don't are providers of service: they are the washers.

In the middle of supper Jesus gets up from the table, removes his outer robe, ties a towel around himself, pours water into a basin, and begins to wash the disciples' feet.

Turmoil fills the room.

Peter's world is challenged and

- he doesn't like it.
- He doesn't understand it.

Think about the last time your world was **challenged or threatened to change.**

- ❖ You know, even when it's for our own good **we often resist // get angry // fight back.**

- ❖ At a minimum we grumble **“under our breath”** or **“vent it out”** to a trusted friend.

Like Peter we cry out: **“You will never wash my feet,”**

In so many ways we have reacted like Peter: – **“We've never done it like this before.”**

- ❖ By maintaining the status quo we are saying: **“I am clinging on to what I know, to what I have. I don't want you messing with my world.”**

Perhaps Peter is wondering, **“If this is how the Messiah acts, what will be expected of the Messiah's disciples? Whose feet might I be asked to wash for the love of Christ?”**

- ❖ Of course, Jesus' answer is clear: **Everyone's feet.**  
**“You also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”**

Jesus has set before us an example of love: crumbling down the old ways of domination and hierarchy - replacing them with **communion and love.**

- There are no feet excluded from love.
- There are no feet unworthy of being washed.
- Even Judas's feet were washed.

Think of all the feet that pass through our lives in a day, a month, a year, a lifetime.

Q: What have we done with those feet or what do we do?

- Maybe we ignore them?
- Maybe we have stepped on them!
- Maybe we have received them into our life.

So many feet. Young, old, tired, lost, angry, hurt.

There are all sorts of feet.

- Feet that have walked through the muck of life. // we too have

- Feet that have trespassed into places they shouldn't have gone. // we too have trespassed into those places
- Feet that have stood on holy ground. // We too have stood on Holy ground
- Feet that have carried the message of good news. // we too have carried some good news
- Feet that dance to a different beat or walk a path different from ours.

Those are the very feet Jesus washed.

To separate ourselves from one another's feet is to reject our share, our heritage, in Christ.

***"If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me."***