

## REFUSING ANOTHER PERSON'S ACT OF LOVE

*“If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”*

*John 13:13-15*

The most powerful event which we are unfortunately missing out in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper this year of the pandemic is the powerful demonstration of the washing of the feet. His disciples sat and watched him do something quite unexpected after supper. Jesus began washing their feet. From the sound of it, no one else questioned what he was doing and why he was doing this, except for Peter, of course. Peter asked him *“Master are you going to wash my feet?”* Jesus answered Peter that he didn’t understand what he was doing there and then, but that he would later. Peter told Jesus *“you will never wash my feet”*. The Lord answered by saying, *“unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.”* Apparently that did the trick. Peter was all for it then! He said *“master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.”*

Peter may have been out of his comfort zone to accept such a powerful expression of Christ’s love for him, and his initial response was to refuse Christ’s love.

How often have we done the same to someone who offered to do something helpful or kind for us? Can you think of a time when someone offered you something small, that you refused even though you might have enjoyed it? A small gift, an offer to buy you lunch, water your plants when you are on vacation, or feed your pets, pick up something for you at the store when you are sick, or let you come stay with them when you are traveling?

To refuse another person’s act of love, no matter how small, is to refuse Christ’s love. We are accustomed to seeing the face of Christ in others that we serve, but it is difficult sometimes to see Christ’s face in those who wish to serve us. Next time, maybe reconsider your decision, like Peter did, and allow Jesus to love you, through the hands, and feet, and hearts of his faithful servants. They too, have been commanded by Christ to serve you.