



The God Who Serves

Who was the last person to wash your feet?

John 13:1(NLT): Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

John 13 (NLT): ⁴So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

Foot Washing in the Ancient Near East

1. Hygiene and comfort
2. Hospitality

John 13:6 (NLT): ⁶When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

John 13:8-9 (NLT): ⁸"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." ⁹Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" ¹⁰Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean."

Foot Washing in the Ancient Near East

1. Hygiene and comfort
2. Hospitality
3. Holy Encounters

Exodus 29: ¹"This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: [offer sacrifices].... ⁴Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

Exodus 30: ¹⁷Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹⁸"Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. ¹⁹Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. ²⁰Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash...Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting a food offering to the Lord, ²¹they shall wash their hands and feet...

God serves by being intentional in the moment and involved in the mundane.

He is intentional in the moment

He is not passive, he is intentional.

"There are three things the poor prize more highly than gold, tho' they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look and the patient hearing of their sorrows." - Catherine McAuley

He is involved in the mundane

Psalm 139: ¹You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

John 13:7 (NLT): ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

John 15:13: ¹³Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

All serving, rightly done, is first and foremost about love.

"Man's humility does not begin with the giving of service; it begins with the readiness to receive it. For there can be much pride and condescension in our giving of service." - W. Temple

"Jesus loved them... to the very end." "Jesus loved them... fully, completely, with every ounce of his being".

God serves by being intentional in the moment and involved in the mundane. He loves fully, so he serves naturally.

John 13:34-35: ³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

"We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed." - Brother Lawrence

Where have you seen God's love?

Where have you shown God's love?

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.