



WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR YOU?



Rev. Peggy Casteel-Huston
Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Sermon John 13: 1-14

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4got up from the table**, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet,^[b] but is entirely clean. And you^[c] are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

This is the word of God, let our thanks and praise be to God.

“Do you know what I have done to you?” That is our question for tonight, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday. Just what has Jesus done for us? Yet Jesus seems to answer his own question for us just a few short verses later.

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.”

What has Jesus done for us? Jesus loved us not just in word but in his deeds. The Lord of all creation knelt before the disciples and everyone present at this Passover dinner and washed their feet. If the Lord of all creation were here in the person of Jesus I believe that he would wash our feet too. What has Jesus done for us – take just a moment in silence and ponder what has Jesus done for you?

We know for sure Jesus love us and his mandate is for us to love one another.

In the Apostle John’s recounting of this story, John tells us that Jesus **got up from the table**. It is the same Greek term that is used in the story of the healing of the man from John chapter 5 where the man is so incapacitated laying by the pool of Bethesda that he is not able to step in the pool when the angel stirs the waters.

Yet Jesus tells the man to **get up**. I believe that Jesus didn’t want this man to be weak and helpless any more. I believe that Jesus wanted this man in his body as well as in his spirit to **get up!** I think Jesus was saying to this man, **get up** and serve God, **get up** and help your friends and neighbors; **get up** and know that you have a purpose in this world.

It is also the same Greek word Luke uses to describe Jesus resurrection. For Luke 24:6 it could read “Jesus is not here He **got up**.”

So when Jesus **got up from the Passover table** took off his robe and began to wash the disciples feet– not as an act of weakness but an act of powerful service. Jesus **got up** to show us the power of loving service.

There is power in loving service. We feel it in our spirit every time we participate in serving.

Tonight, each one of us is invited to **get up**. If you are with another as you listen to this service, we are invited to **get up**. **Get up**, wash one another's hands, bless their hands and thank them for their service to God. Then keep the towel as a reminder of what Jesus is asking us to do – Jesus is asking us to **get up**. **Get up** and love one another, **get up** to show the love of Christ to others, **get up** and find everyday acts of loving service in Jesus' name. Feel the power of God in loving service to others.

Jesus asked the disciples and us, "do you know what I have done for you?"

What has Jesus done for you? **Get up** and do the same. Amen