Good morning brother and sisters from Pine Ridge. This morning I am looking at John’s Gospel chapter 13 where Jesus washes the disciples’ feet.

Last night was Maundy Thursday, the old English name for the night of the last supper. Today we will remember the sacrifice of Jesus on a cross for us. It is good that we put this in Jesus own perspective with the event of the foot washing.

Many good churches still practice foot washing. We do not because in verse 14 Jesus says to do this and in verse 15 He says that this is an example, not a rite. And nowhere in any Scripture that was written after this event do we find the new Church practicing this act.

Since Jesus did say that this was an example, then it is important that we understand Jesus’ meaning of washing one another’s feet.

This was a basic event and need in their times. It was not the lowest job in the house, but it certainly wasn’t a great one. Obviously no one had ventured to do it at the beginning of the meal when it was usually done. So Jesus, after the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, chooses to wash feet. Why? Probably because they still hadn’t understood the implications of anyone dying for them. They did not see the sacrifice the Son of God was making for them, for us. God the creator, the sovereign One, was about to die for people with dirty feet, for people with dirty lives. The last person who should be dying for them was taking a towel and basin and washing their feet. This washing of the feet was a demonstration of Jesus’ great love and His willingness to humble Himself so that He might save us. We can never fully comprehend the distance between a throne in heaven and a cross at Golgotha. We can never fully comprehend the distance between God’s holiness and our lack of it. We can never understand completely a love for those who truly hate in return.

So Jesus washed feet. Simple, necessary, common, and also unheard of from people like us who believe that we are better than that. We can talk of great works for the Lord and then shirk the little acts of service. The sad thing is that we don’t even see those opportunities to serve, just as no disciple saw the towel and basin when they had arrived that night. In just a few verses Jesus will explain the real motivation for us to serve: “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” And this is to be an active, demonstrated love. A love that people see in our lives because He goes on to say, “By *this* all men will *know* that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

So as followers of Jesus, this morning, the day in which He died for us, we must understand He did this to serve us. And He calls to serve as He did; with humility and out of love.

in Christ Pastor EA