

4.9.20 Servant Lord, Servant Feet

- Long ago, after wearing simple sandals all day long and walking along unpaved country roads, or dusty footpaths, by the end of the day your feet were pretty grimy
 - So it was customary when you showed up as a guest at someone's house for them to provide some water for you to wash your feet – or if you were wealthy, for a servant or a slave to stoop down and wash your feet for you
 - The disciples were ordinary people who probably seldom if ever were guests at a wealthy home, and so they may never have had a servant stoop down and wash their lowly feet
 - And that made the fact that JESUS, their friend and teacher had stooped down to wash their feet all that more shocking
 - In their eyes, he was their master, he was their teacher, and he was their Lord, and not some lowly servant
- But that's really part of the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ that continues to shock people even today
 - We have a Lord who has not only been raised to glory, BUT FIRST, Jesus was a lowly servant who washed feet, and then became the very lowest of the low – the God who in human flesh allowed himself to be handed over to death like a criminal put to death on the cross
 - And here's the thing – on Maundy Thursday, not only do we remember that Jesus washed his disciple's feet, but we also remember that Jesus commanded his disciples to wash one another's feet – that is, Jesus commanded us to be servants to each other and to the world
 - So as you are either watching this on video or reading this as a manuscript, I ask you now to take off your shoes, your socks, or your slippers, and look at your feet... go ahead, get barefoot and wiggle your toes!
 - Now I have two questions to ask you to think about
 - First, where have your feet taken you during this past week as you have tried to live out your life as a disciple of the servant Christ – a disciple who has been called to serve one another and all the people of the world?

- And the second question is this: where will or might your feet take you in the coming week as a servant of the servant-Christ who calls you to serve your neighbor?
- Think about the past week and the next week for a moment...
- This time of coronavirus is a time of extremes in lives of service to our neighbors
 - Some of us are serving others by caring for the sick or the vulnerable and perhaps putting our own health and lives on the line
 - Still others of us are stocking shelves and checking out groceries so that we might have food and yes, even toilet paper
 - And still many others of us – we aren't walking very far at all! We are staying at home, and our Apple watches and our Fit-Bits aren't logging many steps unless we intentionally take lonely walks or use a tread mill, but we can use some of this at-home-time for prayer, and reaching out by telephone, or doing school or work or church by email, Facebook or Zoom. So right now, NOT putting in our steps in this strange time is ALSO a vital way to serve our neighbors
- Long ago Jesus lowered himself to act less like a teacher, less like a master, and to act much less like the Son of God, in order to show the disciples then and us now that the crucified and later the risen Christ came to serve, and to call each of us into different paths of service.