

Lenten Reflections

Holy Week

The Divine Intervention

April 13, 2017



Scripture

John 13: 1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father.

He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over.

So, during supper,

fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.

He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

Then he poured water into a basin

and began to wash the disciples' feet

and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

"Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him,

"What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet."
Jesus answered him,
"Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."
Simon Peter said to him,
"Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."
Jesus said to him,
"Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed,
for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all."
For he knew who would betray him;
for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."
So when he had washed their feet
and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,
he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?
You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.
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."

Our Scripture Reflection

Why did Peter refuse so vehemently when Jesus attempted to wash his feet? He knew quite well there was a well-established social pecking order: Servants washed their Master's feet, never the other way around. But beyond that, Peter knew he was at the front of the pack and the most likely to succeed Jesus should something happen. If he did become the Master someday, was Jesus indicating that Peter had better learn how to become truly humble?? Perhaps Peter was prepared for the crown but not the cross....

Food for your Journey

To kings, judges, and clergy the robe is a symbol of majestic authority, designed to inspire reverence, respect, dread, and wonder. The problem is, anyone can wear the robe and assume the posture and it will have the same effect. The titles and the vestments have their own mystique.

Paul exhorted that the “mind,” which was in Christ Jesus should alone set the tenor in the Christian community. Refusing to compete and exalt one’s self, was to be the norm, not the exception. The only place of true unity is at the bottom, in the community scrambling for the lowest chair.

—George Davis, “Footwashing as a posture of life,” In Search of a City Web Site, Insearchofacity.homestead.com.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, As I ponder Your sacred passion and death, please take away everything in me that is selfish and unholy. Help me to become truly humble. Amen.