

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

by Max Lucado

It has been a long day. Jerusalem is packed with Passover guests, most of whom clamor for a glimpse of the Teacher. The spring sun is warm. The streets are dry. And the disciples are a long way from home. A splash of cool water would be refreshing.

The disciples enter [the room], one by one, and take their places around the table. On the wall hangs a towel, and on the floor sits a pitcher and a basin. Any one of the disciples could volunteer for the job, but not one does.

After a few moments, Jesus stands and removes his outer garment. He wraps a servant's girdle around his waist, takes up the basin, and kneels before one of the disciples. He unlaces a sandal and gently lifts the foot and places it in the basin, covers it with water, and begins to bathe it. One by one, one grimy foot after another, Jesus works his way down the row.

In Jesus' day the washing of feet was a task reserved not just for servants but for the lowest of servants... The servant at the bottom of the totem pole was expected to be the one on his knees with the towel and basin. In this case the one with the towel and basin is the king of the universe. Hands that shaped the stars now wash away filth. Fingers that formed mountains now massage toes. And the one before whom all nations will one day kneel now kneels before his disciples. Hours before his own death, Jesus' concern is singular. He wants his disciples to know how much he loves them. You can be sure Jesus knows the future of these feet he is washing. These twenty-four feet will not spend the next day following their master, defending his cause. These feet will dash for cover at the flash of a Roman sword. Only one pair of feet won't abandon him in the garden. One disciple won't desert him at Gethsemane—Judas won't even make it that far! He will abandon Jesus that very night at the table. What a passionate moment when Jesus silently lifts the feet of his betrayer and washes them in the basin!

Jesus knows what these men are about to do. He knows they are about to perform the vilest act of their lives. By morning they will bury their heads in shame and look down at their feet in disgust. And when they do, he wants them to remember how his knees knelt before them and he washed their feet...

He forgave their sin before they even committed it. He offered mercy before they even sought it.

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Responsive Reading: Psalm 126

Men: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Women: *Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity.*

ALL: **I acknowledged my sin to you, Lord, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Men: My God is a hiding place for me.

Women: *My God preserves me from trouble.*

Men: My God surrounds me with glad cries of deliverance.

Women: *My God will instruct me.*

Men: My God will teach me the way I should go.

Women: *My God will counsel me with His eye upon me.*

ALL: **Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

1st Lesson: Isaiah 43:18-21

Thus says the LORD: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

2nd Lesson: Philippians 3:7-14

Whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: John 12:1=8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."



Easter Garden – Please sign up & support! (It's really beautiful☺)

Every year, Salem puts up a beautiful Easter garden at the front of the sanctuary. This is made possible through the financial donations given by the congregation and, in no small part, the tremendous effort put in by Della Nelson and Pastor Rob. Sign up to memorialize someone and give to Della your financial support! **This is the LAST week in which to donate to this wonderful garden!**

Wednesday's in Lent: This is the end of the Lenten Wednesdays...

Immediately prior to the Lenten Wednesday evening learning session, we will be serving a "Soup n Sandwich" supper at 6PM and this pattern will continue each Wednesday through April 10. After supper (at 7PM), we go into the sanctuary where Pr. Rob conducts a discussion on different aspects of the cross...Next topic continues from last Wednesday wherein Mary Magdalene and John the Beloved will be discussed. This has been a banner year for these Wednesday sessions and dinners with an average weekly attendance of 22!!

Minnesota Food Month -- March

Salem stood tall and donated 80# of food plus \$130.00 to Family Pathways to this annual endeavor (now closed). Thanks to all who pitched in!!

Easter Brunch --

There will be an Easter Sunday brunch immediately after the service on Easter Sunday morning. If you would like to donate food or help, there is a signup sheet in the Community Room.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Having a Vacation Bible School is being discussed for this summer during the week prior to the annual picnic (end of July). A survey to assess interest is out and about and on the church website. If you are interested in your children attending such, please do the short survey or contact Deb Stenberg or Pr. Rob.

Women's Bible Study Group – Sessions will resume after Easter.

Family Pathway's Barn Bash

This fundraiser will be held on May 16th at 5:30 at the Bloom Lake Barn in Shafer, Minn. More information can be found at www.familypathways.org or by calling (651) 674-8040.

Focus on Family

Focus on the Family will be sponsoring a projection of an ultrasound of an invitro fetus upon the Jumbo-tron in Times Square, NYC, on May 4th. This event is entitled "Alive from New York" and more information can be found on their website, "FocusOnTheFamily.com".

Grin-able(s)...

Little Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him. "You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!" Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?" "Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."



Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?" "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."