

**Jesus Came to Serve Us in Love****1. By Washing Us****2. By Feeding Us***Jesus the Servant*

- Been said before: Lent, for us, all re J; but Lent, for J, us.<sup>1</sup> Lent for us all re J, as we focus on J, his suff/death to redeem us. But Lent for J all re us. Everything J suffd, endured: did for us, bec loves us! He's determind to save us & serve us. J came serve us in love. Think re Scrptrs heard this Lenten season. **"Son/Man not be served/serve" (Mt 20:28). "J not consdr eqilty w/God smthng used own advntg; made self nothing, by takng very nature of servant" (Php 2:6-7).** Don't really have servants today. Maybe think butler, mansion. Probly closest thing in our exprnc to servant is server at rstnt. Server your takes order, brings food, refills drinks, gets what need; waits on you. J came wait on us, serve us, as servant, not bec had to, but wanted to, out of love. **Vs. 1bc, w/full extent.** Today, on this MT, we see, in 2 powerful ways, how J came serve us in love.

*Washing Us*

- 1<sup>st</sup> by washing. That night in upper room, just J & discs; no household servants to perform lowly, menial task of washing dirty ft. So Jesus did it. **Vs. 2-5.** Shocking, on # levels. 1<sup>st</sup>, this is Son/God, who **"all things under his power:"** he's stooping down to wash creature's filthy ft. Then, think re evrthng on J's mind; knows in next few hours: tortured, crucified, killed! Yet, still humbly serves his discs, 1/whom soon betray, rest/whom then abandon him. Finly (speaking discs), they know J=God; why aren't washing his ft? Well here's why: bec that night (Lk tells), **"A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest" (22:24).** Height of irony. They're arguing re who's greatest, on MT, as humble Savior washes their ft, just hours before his death for their sins. It's shocking scene.
- Pt must felt embrssd; **vs. 6b-8.** Pt needed be washed by J; and we need washed by J, as well – bec by nature we're filthy; filled w/same arrogant pride, covered head/toe in same self-centered sin disc. We're people of unclean hands/lips. We all know sins that stain us; and all need be washed, purified, cleansed of our sins. And can't cleanse selves. So we need J do it for us; need J to wash us clean with his holy blood. 1 Jn: **"Blood/Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1:7).** In less than 24 hrs, the blood that purifies us from all sin: shed on cross; J was about sacrfc his life wash away sins/world, and wash us clean. Pt needed that; we need too. J: **vs. 8b.**
- Pt can't restrain self: **vs. 9-10.** Judas, not clean. But to Pt, also to you/me: **"Clean."** And certly not bec w/o sin, or bec can cleanse selves. Only reason clean: J shed blood on cross to wash us; and now by faith we bel in J as Sav; we trust that his blood has purified us from all sin – that's what makes us clean; that's our bath. Yet ev day we still sin; ev day need that dust washed off our ft. So when J says **vs. 10a,** not talking re dirt from road. Means: ev day God forgives you, bec ev day washes you. That's promise made to you in your bap. Bap: **"washing of rebirth & renewal by HS" (Tt 3:5).** Ev day God renews you; gives you fresh start; comes to you again/again, thru waters of your bap, and washes away your daily sins. We all need this daily cleansing; so J washes us. On MT J stooped down like servant, washed discs ft. J also serves us, by washing away our sins, thru blood shed on cross, and thru cleansing waters of bap. J came serve us in love: by washing us...

*Feeding Us*

- And by feeding us. W/evryone's ft washed, now time for meal – Psvr: Jews clbrtd ev yr cmmmrnt mightly delivrnc from slavery in Egypt. This: last Psvr J'd celebrt w/discs; last meal b4 death; & was at this meal J instttd HC/LS. Jn doesn't record instttn of LS bec Mt, Mk, Lk do (so does Paul, 1 Cor). But that night, acc to Mt: **"While they were eating, J took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his discs, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood/covenant, which is poured out for many for the frgvns of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit/vine from now on until that day when I drink**

**it anew with you in my Father's kngdm" (26:26-29, NIV 84).** Later Paul'd write: **"Whnvr you eat this bread and drink this cup, you prclm the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26).**

- I'd like eat/bread, drink/cup w/you tonight. But this is a MT like no other. This's MT where not gathrng tog as cong to celebrate LS – prob 1<sup>st</sup> time in cong's histry been this way. Hard! HC is certly indiv expernc, betwn you/God – why we have private Com. But also community expernc; called Com bec you're also joining tog w/fellow Xians who share same faith. So not being able commune w/God or one another on MT is hard! Hard bec we know what Com is, & what does. In HC J feeds us w/true bdy/bld in mircls yet very real way. And does this: forgive our sins, strngthn faith in him as Sav – and not merely in memorial/representative way. No, J actly communcts his grace to us thru this sacrmnt, thru this eat/drinking of his bdy/bld. So to be unable to receive that, on very night he gives that, is hard.
- And yet as Luths, we do well to remem that HS is pwrflly at work thru MofG: Gos in sacrmnt & word. J's word is no less pwrful than bdy/bld. Few minutes ago when you saw PDW at altar, and upon your confssn he forgave your sins, that counts before God! J: **"If forgive anyone sins, forgiven" (Jn 20:23).** That's why our services include C&A, bec J's word is pwrfl: to strngthn your faith, draw closer to God, & forgive your sins! That's why we read God's word, study, learn, memorize, believe, find comfort in it. HS works thru word. J feeds you w/his Word. I know we all have holy hunger for sacrmnt & for being in church again. And maybe a silver lining of this health crisis: we'll all hunger even more for sacrmnt & for gathering tog for worship; maybe those who didn't come church very often before this will start coming more; maybe we'll all appreciate our church/cong more. But as we hunger, don't forget that J came serve us in love, by feeding us, w/word. Maintain holy hunger for God's word. Ps 119: **"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth."** And J: **"Whoever comes me never go hungry, and whoever bels in me never be thirsty" (Jn 6:35).** As for HC, right now as cong, J is having us fast. How satisfying it will be when fast is finally over, and we can once again receive J's bdy/bld and the forgiveness & faith-strngthnng it brings.
- But until then, we feast by faith on the food J does give us – for J came serve us in love, by washing us & feeding us. He's our servant, our server; brings us what we need. We need cleansing, so he washes us. We need food, so he feeds us. We need salvation, so he faces cross for us – to die, rise again. It's a diff kind of MT this year, and diff kind of HW. But for us, Lent is all re J – who, in this ever-changing world, never changes. And Lent for J is all re us. Faced cross for us, to serve us, save us, bec loves us. **Vs. 1bc.** J came serve us in love.

### John 13:1-15

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup>The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup>He [Jesus] came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup>"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

<sup>1</sup> Daniel M. Deutschlander, *On Giving Advice to God: Devotions on the Wisdom of God and the Foolishness of Man, Part I*, Milwaukee: NPH, 2017, p. 139.