

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: Journey to the Cross

Teaching Two: “*Jesus Serves his Disciples*”

John 13.1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Question for Everyone: When encountering an opportunity to be helpful I (1) always jump in a find a way to be of assistance to (10) I always wait to be invited to help assuming that if my help is wanted I will be asked. Where are you on this helpfulness scale?

The Beginning of the End

What would you do if you knew you had just a few days to live? There is certainly wisdom and considering our limits. We pray with the psalmist *“teach us to number our days”* (Psalm 90.12). How is a healthy sense of one’s end a good thing? Is really possible to live as if each day were your last?

Dead Man Walking

“It is time now for the church to listen carefully to Jesus’ final instructions before he departs.” How might the fact that Jesus is preparing his followers for his crucifixion change the way one hears the story of the basin and the towel?

Jesus is the Passover

“In John’s Gospel Jesus is the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.” Reflecting on the Exodus and specifically the Passover story, what does it mean that Jesus is the Passover Lamb?

The Basin and Towel

“Washing feet is a strange thing in our culture. It’s such an odd and personal thing.” Do you think the act of feet washing should be added a churches Holy Week observance? Have you ever had your feet washed by another?

Peter’s Lesson

“Foot washing is about the humility required to receive God’s saving and helping and healing grace. . . . We must learn again and again, the lesson that Peter learned. If we want to have anything to do with Jesus, we must let Jesus serve us. . . . We must give up the illusion that we are really just good folk with rough edges. How do you respond to this?

Becoming a Servant

“Most people in the church are like most people everywhere else; they are willing to serve occasionally when it fits into their schedule, willing to serve when they are passionate about the issues, willing to serve as long as they have complete control over how, when and where they serve. While this is certainly what it means to serve it is not what it means to become a servant in the way of Jesus.” How might one nurture a spirituality of servanthood?

Next Week: John 15: Jesus Teaches His Disciples about Love