

AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU

As preached on Sunday, April 26th

Read: John 13:1-17

1. Chapters 13 through 17 of John's gospel are the script of a quiet conversation shared between Jesus and his closest followers. Why do you suppose Jesus took so much time to communicate with them in this way as opposed to spending his last days interacting with the public?
2. In vv.4-5 we're told that Jesus rose during the meal and began to wash his disciples' feet. Have you ever participated in a foot-washing? How did it feel to experience it?
3. Take a moment to re-read the dialogue between Peter and Jesus in vv.6-10. What do you make of it? Is Peter expressing true humility or is he behaving like an unteachable student?
4. Do you think the point of this passage is that we should wash each other's feet more often? Why, or why not? What do you think would be an equivalent act of service that is normative in our culture today?
5. Many theologians have suggested that in washing his disciples' feet Jesus is symbolizing what he is about to accomplish on the cross. Do you agree? If so, in what way does it symbolize Jesus' crucifixion?
6. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean"?
7. Does this passage present a theological truth or an ethical mandate?
8. In what practical ways can you begin to "do as Jesus has done" in this passage? In what ways do you think you'll be blessed as do?