



**What is the ugliest/the most unpleasant act of service that you have done for someone?**

**Who would you nominate, from among people you know, for the Mother Teresa Award for selfless, costly servanthood?**

# **Ugly Service**

---

**John chapter 13 verses 1-17**

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.<sup>[a]</sup> *he showed them the full extent of his love.*<sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.<sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.<sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist,<sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

<sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

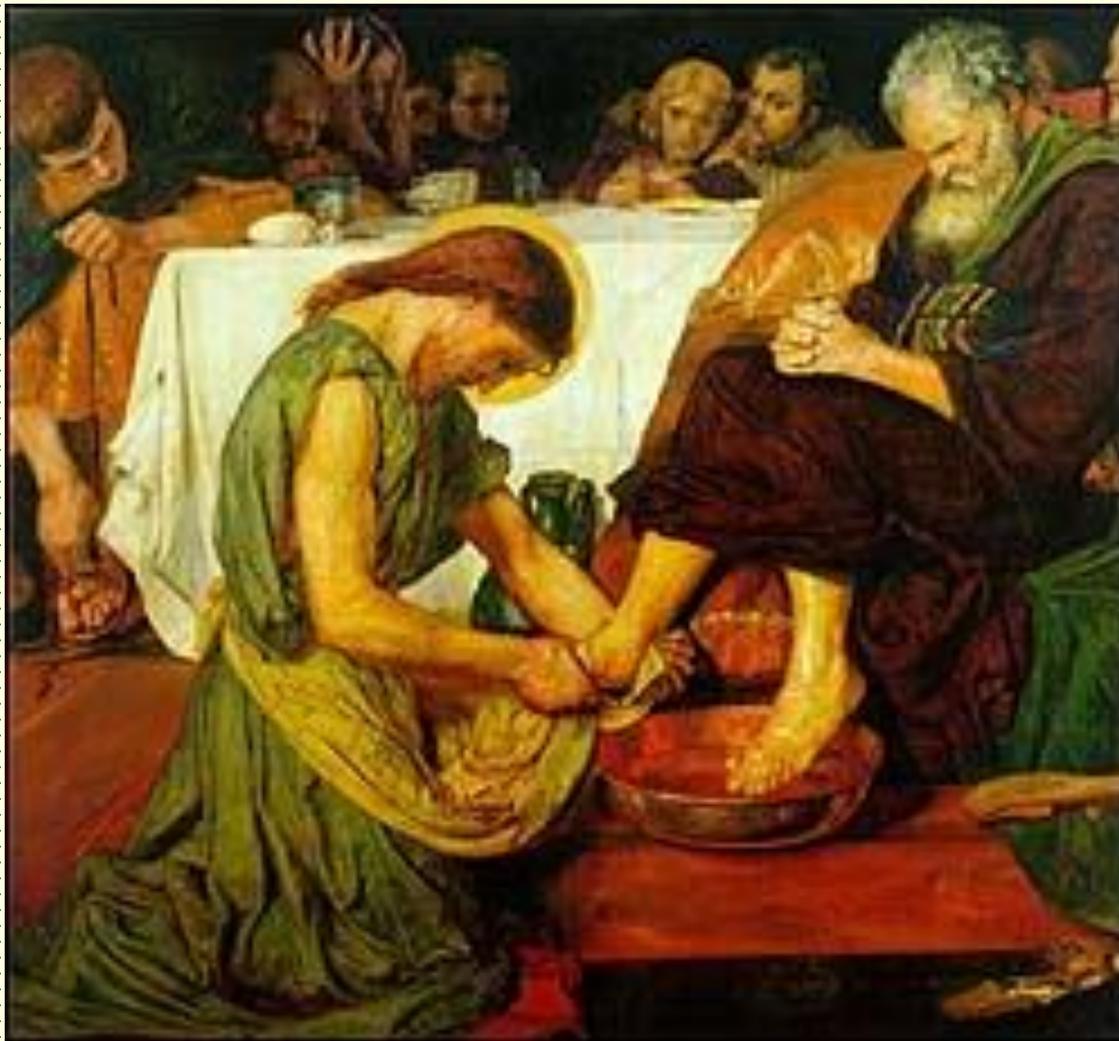
<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

<sup>8</sup> "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet,<sup>[c]</sup> to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?" <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. <sup>14</sup> And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.



**“The humility we see in the foot washing of Jesus must be seen through the lens of Jesus’ ultimate “washing”, his sacrificial death on the cross which cleanses us of all our sins.”**

# **What does Jesus' foot washing say to you about your life as his follower?**

---

**If Jesus were to wash your feet today in a new and meaningful way, what would Jesus do?**

- a. wash my feet**
- b. ask "how can I help you?" and do it**
- c. say he was pleased to have me on his team**
- d. put his arm around me and give me a hug**
- e. forgive my sin**



## **Why do you think people in the church don't practice the principle of foot washing?**

- a. we don't want to get too close**
- b. we are too busy meeting our own needs**
- c. it's not okay to admit we have needs**
- d. we are overwhelmed/don't know where to start**
- e. we're too proud to serve one another**

## **In your family relationships and among friends, what would it mean to practice foot washing?**

- a. to be available to respond to needs**
- b. to consider no job too menial/unpleasant**
- c. to be sensitive to someone having a bad day**
- d. to show more affection**
- e. to spend time just listening**
- f. to be more patient and forgiving**

**W**

