

## THE BOWL AND TOWEL

I was sitting in my office the other day, and I looked up. Above me is a shelf of memories I have collected over the last 25 years. One hung over the edge a little and floated over my head as I stared at it. It is a bowl and towel given to me by a professor when I graduated.

John 13:3-5,13-15

*3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

Jesus was the best communicator. He taught everywhere he went. Even though many had stubborn hearts and stubborn wills, he still shared the good news of the Kingdom of God with them. But even more than a great teacher, he is the master. Jesus is Lord, which means he has the authority to share information with us. Likewise, he also can expect that we obey him.

What he asks of his disciples isn't anything he isn't willing to do himself. As a matter of fact, what he asks them to do, he has already done. He calls his disciples to care for one another. The Lord teaches them the Kingdom ethos of welcoming, cleaning, and restoring. Obviously, this forces them out of their comfort zones. Dirty feet are nasty. Messy lives are even more so. However, those soiled lives cannot be restored without love, effort, and courage. Jesus believes they are worth it and wants his disciples to see each other and the world around them the same way. What Jesus does is different from the standard operating principle of earthly kingdoms. But, his kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36).

As you approach the world this week, remember our Teacher and Lord. Jesus didn't just tell us. He modeled it for us. So when we get off track, or we don't know what to do, the solution is simple. Pick up the bowl and towel and find some feet to wash.

Blessings,  
Ryan