

## Worship at Home on MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

### Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

O God, help us to say to You today, just as the little boy Samuel said in the Old Testament: Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.

Speak to us the word we need, and help us to hear You. To those who are discouraged and depressed, speak the word of encouragement; the word of warning to those who are likely to go astray; the word of comfort to those who are hurt; the word of guidance to those who are uncertain of the direction to take; the word of strength to those who are weak; the word of power so that we would be lifted in our spirits.

Master, speak to us and we will obey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### ***Hymn of Praise (or any other hymn/song known to the family can be sung; and a few more hymn/songs as the family may choose to sing)***

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

**Intercession (each person can be encouraged to say a prayer based on the items below or one person could be assigned to pray all the items below)**

1. We live in very challenging times. We can only help ourselves so much. We depend on GOD to deliver us from evil. Pray God will deliver us and others from our present troubles.
2. It seems the ozone layer is healing. We pray it will heal rapidly and completely so that the environment may improve.
3. Any other prayers the family wishes to bring to God.

End the intercession with **the Lord's Prayer:**

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Hymn of Preparation (or any other hymn/song)**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

○ *Refrain:*

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

**Reading of the Bible (turn to your Bibles and everyone reads aloud together or one verse per person)**

John 13:1-17 (English Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

### **Sermon (to be read aloud by one person)**

Some years ago, I read a book called *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. The book looks at 11 elite companies and asks the question, ‘What made them go from good to great?’ Plus, how could they sustain that for at least 15 years. Apparently, there are six things that makes a company good to great. One of the first things they talk about is that “good to great leaders embody a paradoxical mix of personal humility and professional will.”

One example of such a leadership is David Packard who helped build up Hewlett Packard: (pg. 193 *Good to Great*)

- Self-made billionaire
- Lived in same small house built in 1957, with a tiny kitchen, dated linoleum and simply furnished
- Bequeathed \$5.6 billion to a charitable foundation
- Family created a eulogy pamphlet with a photo of him sitting on a tractor in farming clothes. The caption simply said: “David Packard, 1912-1996, Rancher, etc.”

People are attracted to those who are humble. Not only in church or religious circles but also in the business world.

For us the best example of humility is our Lord Jesus Christ. On the night of the washing of the disciples’ feet He said, “For I have given you an example, that you should also do just as I have done to you” (verse 15). And then in verse 16, “A servant is not greater than his master.” In the washing of the disciples’ feet we see Jesus’s humility. Not only in this passage but throughout the Gospels we see Jesus’ humility. From His incarnation to His death on the Cross we see His humility.

We are not given a choice here. Everyone who follows Jesus must serve others. It was the disciples who should have washed Jesus’ feet. Instead He washed theirs. And we see Jesus’ love for the them in the washing of their feet. They will know and understand

more of the love of Jesus when He goes to the Cross for them. He humbly serves them and humbly takes up the Cross for their sake and for ours.

If we want to be like Christ one of the things that we must work at is humility. I am not sure if you would agree with me but let me say it nevertheless. I think there is so much of pride and arrogance in the church today. Very few of those who call themselves Christians have Christlike humility. There are many self-ambitious people in our churches; people who love to put themselves forward. Very few people put service above self-interest. "Come, follow, become like Jesus" is more of a slogan to print on our brochures and t-shirts rather than an attitude to live by as Christians.

It seems a large group of European pastors came to one of D. L. Moody's Northfield Bible Conferences in Massachusetts in the late 1800s. Moody as we know was a world-famous evangelist. Following the European custom of the time, each guest put his shoes outside his own room to be cleaned by the hall servants overnight. But of course, this was America and there were no hall servants. Walking the dormitory halls that night, Moody saw the shoes and decided not to embarrass his guests. He gathered up the shoes, and, alone in his room, the world-famous evangelist began to clean and polish the shoes. Only the unexpected arrival of a friend in the midst of the work revealed the secret. Moody never told anyone. His friend did to a few.

Where are pastors and Christian leaders like Moody today? I remember reading years ago a very lengthy article (which I cannot locate anymore). One of the things the author says is, when he goes to see certain religious leaders and have conversations with them, he feels he has been in the presence of holy men. Then he goes on to say that when he goes to see some pastors, he goes away feeling he has only met with CEOs. I think he means there is nothing spiritual and nothing humble about us. Actually, it is a reflection of the condition of the whole church. What a damning statement about the religious leaders in the church and the condition of the church. We have forgotten that our Lord was born in a stable, rode on a donkey on one occasion and washed the feet of His disciples. The disciples had just discussed among themselves who was the greatest – our Lord Jesus demonstrated greatness to them. Who is the greatest? The one who serves.

We don't have to wash one another's feet today to show servanthood and humility. We can serve one another in many other ways and cultivate humility within us. Ordering around, commanding others, insisting on our ways to be the right way is arrogance. There are many other genuine ways to express humility at home, in the church and elsewhere. Parents taking time to listen to children's thoughts and children listening to the parents' guidance are expressions of humility. Helping one another with chores at home is servanthood. Giving a lift to people to church is servanthood.

Essentially, we need to cultivate humility in our hearts. We need to stop thinking about self-advancement and entitlement in the church and at home. If we do not cultivate humility and servanthood at home and in the church, we do not get an opportunity to cultivate it genuinely elsewhere.

**Hymn of Assurance (*or any other hymn/songs known to the family*)**

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,  
Hear my humble cry;  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

- *Refrain:*  
Savior, Savior,  
Hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

Let me at Thy throne of mercy  
Find a sweet relief;  
Kneeling there in deep contrition,  
Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit,  
Would I seek Thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,  
Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the spring of all my comfort,  
More than life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee,  
Whom in Heav'n but Thee.

**Closing Prayer (*in unison*)**

Father, teach us to be humble. Please steer our lives towards serving You and serving others. May Your blessings be upon us all, now and always. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.