

For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

6 *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*
7 *Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*
8 *"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."*
Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
9 *"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"*
10 *Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean...." (John 13:6-10a)*

The above passage comes from the gospel according to John, where Jesus' servant-nature is on display as he washes the disciples feet. This task was customarily done by a servant in the host's home as a symbol of hospitality. For whatever reasons, this had not been done, so Jesus takes it upon himself to wash the dirty, grimy feet of the disciples.

Peter is very uncomfortable with this and objects. Jesus reassures Peter that he will later understand why he did this, inferring that upon reflection he will gain clarity of Jesus' intent. To further emphasize his point, Jesus insists that in order for Peter to be his apprentice he must concede to having the Teacher wash his feet. Further showing his confusion, Peter suggests that Jesus wash his hands and head too. Yet, Jesus reassures him that if someone has had a bath, they only need to have their feet washed. Jesus is serving his disciples in an intentional manner to prepare them for their service to the world.



REFLECTION:
How is serving uncomfortable for you? How is being served uncomfortable for you?

PRACTICE:
Look for a way to serve someone in a surprising fashion this week.