

Reflection Maundy Thursday 2021

Actions speak louder than words, how true. Jesus' public ministry was filled with action and words yet, often, the actions had a longer lasting effect. Rather than focus on the words of institution of the eucharist, John focuses on the action of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. It was his actions that gave power and belief to his words. He seemed to live much more than what he preached. Jesus laid down his life for us but, it was not simple, it was a callous, degrading and cruel death. In washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed, once more, how much he loved and cared for them and for their future. If there was any humility in this act, it would have been with the disciples who must have felt humiliation at Jesus washing their feet. Only Peter had the courage to speak up. Any kind of service and action for or on behalf of someone deeply loved would never be thought of as humble service but rather a privilege and an honour.

In today's world people would have hugged Jesus for having washed their feet and been filled with deeper respect and reverence for him. Ronald Rolheiser suggests that what was truly significant about this event was that even though Jesus knew he was going to face ignominious rejection and a despicable death, it did not swerve him from the fact that he loved his disciples dearly and had the all-embracing love to show it.

Truly humble people are grounded in reality; they neither preen themselves with illusions of greatness nor suffer agonies of self-hatred. – Paula Huston.

Kindness in words creates confidence.

Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.

Kindness in giving creates love. -Lao Tzu

The touch of the towel © 2011 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia.

Jesus, you kneel before me.

You remove my shoes and I am exposed.

My feet are grimy,

full of calluses and cracks,

pungent with sweat and mal-formed.

I'm embarrassed by them.

I pull back but you reassure.

You're not offended.

I feel welcome in your hands,

vulnerable, yet safe.

The cleansing begins.

I see your reflection in the ripples,

I see me, too.

Your water brings truth and life,

who I am and who I can be.

I am whole and at home in the touch of the towel

You look at my neighbour and hand it to me.