

August 11, 2019 Sermon: Longings of Love **Text:** John 13:1-17

**Introduction:**

Have you ever participated in a foot washing service? What was it like for you? Were you uncomfortable at any point? Was it meaningful for you?

Is there someone in your life who has demonstrated what it means to “wash feet”? How?

**Reflect on the message:** What new insights did you gain from this message?

**Examination:**

- Visualize yourself as one of the disciples that evening. Talk about what you are seeing, thinking, and feeling as Jesus engages in washing your feet. What are you experiencing when He gets to you? How does this change you?
- In what ways is the foot washing a foreshadowing (an advance sign of what is to come) of the cross?
- Three times in this passage John highlights what Jesus “knew” (see vs. 1, 3, and 11). What impresses you about the actions of Jesus in light of what He “knew” (consider that Jesus knew he had less than 24 hours to live).
- Read verses 7 – 10. What does Jesus mean here? When do you think they “understood”? How do you think they understood this act later?
- In the sermon **3 Longings of Love that Jesus has** are identified: 1) to enter into an intimate love relationship with us; 2) to see this intimacy & love “spill over” into our life together in the Body of Christ; 3) for us to truly believe that the most faithful way for us to live the Christ-life is on our knees, washing feet. **Which of these three longings do you most desire? Why?**
- Why is it so difficult for us to truly believe we are the beloved of God – that, “God made us as a gift to Himself!” - and to “live into” this love relationship with Jesus?
- Whose feet do you resist washing? Why? (e.g. people who are selfish or ...)
- Read vs. 12-17 again. Consider the context (the cross is quickly approaching) & talk about how important what Jesus teaches here is for the disciples and for us. Jesus acknowledges he is “Lord and Teacher” - summarize what the Lord is teaching us.

**Application: (in small groups of 3-5)**

Fact: share something you learned.

React: share something you feel in response to this study.

Act: share something you plan to do. (This is crucial in light of John 13:17!)

\*Identify some needs (individual(s), church, community, and world) and ask, as a group:

***“How can we wash feet in this situation?”***