

# REFLECTION - 5



Ford Madox Brown. *Jesus Washing Peter's Feet*. 1852-56. retouched several times up to 1892. Oil on canvas 46 x 52 1/4 in. Tate Gallery, London.

*"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."*

*( John 13:14)*

I invite you to take a few moments to reflect on this image of Jesus at the feet of Peter - taking on the role of the lowest servant. Imagine yourself within the scene, witnessing Jesus tie the cloth about his waist, pouring the water, and washing each disciple's feet...

Consider your emotions - would they match any of the disciples' in the painting? Now imagine Jesus at your own feet...

How would you react?

As you know, initially Simon Peter refuses Jesus, going as far as to say 'You will never wash my feet' (John 13:8). How many of us have likewise attempted to dodge having our feet washed on Maundy Thursday? Or perhaps avoided a vicar's eyes during the sermon or even over coffee? Who has had a time where they have stepped away from church entirely in a moment of great distress? Like Simon Peter, we attempt to deny ourselves when we feel unworthy. But Jesus will intercede on our behalf.

We are taught to humble ourselves and wash the feet of others, but we are also taught to accept others washing our feet.

Understand there is generosity in receiving as well as in giving.

So this evening I ask you to be generous with yourself.

Open your heart and release everything to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember the cleansing water of your baptism and feel the abounding love which surrounds each of us.

You are a precious child of God. Beloved.

