



**Theme: Tell Me Something Good –  
Good News in the Gospel of John**

***“Cleaning Feet, Loving Well, and Trusting Deeply”***

Sermon preached by Jeff Huber, March 21-22, 2026, at Summit Church, Durango

**Weekly Memory Verse:**

***“<sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33***

**VIDEO**      Sermon Intro

**SLIDE**      “Cleaning Feet, Loving Well, and Trusting Deeply”

Today we continue our theme in the Gospel of John, longing for someone to **Tell Us Something Good** in a world full of difficult news. We are reading through the Gospel of John together in this season of Lent, the 40 Days and 7 Sundays before we get to Easter, using our Meditation Moments. If you do not have a Bible, we will be happy to give you one at our Welcome Center in the atrium. If you’re watching at home or online, you can download the **Meditation Moments** right off our website.

Each week we’re going to focus on some background information

that will help us understand the rest of the Gospel. Primarily we will be doing three things each week. My hope is that this information will help the Gospel of John come alive as we read it together.

**SLIDE      What is the historical background of John's Gospel?**

**SLIDE      What is the Gospel writer trying to tell us about Jesus?**

**SLIDE      How does Jesus in John impact my life?**

Who is this man and what does he mean for our lives? What does he demand from us? **How does he invite us to live** our lives if we follow him? John wants us to ask these questions and he writes in metaphor and layers to invite us deeper, like having Jesus be laid to rest and resurrected in a garden, and starting his Gospel not with the birth narrative like Matthew and Luke, or with the Baptism of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, but, "In the beginning..."

In 1993 there was a movie that came out with Michael Keaton and Nicole Kidman called, "My Life." She is pregnant with their first child, and he finds out that he has an inoperable tumor and will not be able to be there for his son, so he decides to make a video, leaving some final words for his unborn child. Here's a short clip from the preview to give you an idea.

**VIDEO              My Life**

As you can tell, the film is both poignant and funny and heart wrenching. I thought of that film this week because the passages we have before us today are Jesus speaking to the disciples, knowing that he will be arrested in just a few hours. After he is arrested, he knows that the next day he is going to die. The disciples don't know this yet, but Jesus knows this and he is giving the disciples what he wants them to remember. He doesn't want them to forget the mission and the vision of what they were all about in their earthly life together. He wanted them to remember the things that he taught them. He is going

to leave them, but they need to remember these important matters because Jesus came for these reasons.

Jesus lays out for them **an example** of what he hoped they would be. He lays out **a commandment** that is meant to be the most important and then he gives them **a promise**, that **death is not really the end**. Remember that Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the Jesus story in a more linear fashion that you might find in a newspaper or by a reporter. John tells the story of Jesus somewhat differently, using different language and different images because his point is to help us understand **what Jesus means for our lives**. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the **synoptic** Gospels which means, **“to see together.”** They each see Jesus in much the same way and the stories are similar. While they have their differences, in some unique stories, they are very similar.

## **GRAPHIC          DaVinci**

John’s Gospel is a very different way of telling the story. Nowhere is that clearer than at the **Last Supper. Matthew takes 18 verses** to tell what Jesus did at the Last Supper. It’s the Passover Seder, which was the annual Jewish Festival to remember how the people escaped slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses. Jesus takes the bread and he transforms the meal by saying, “Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the supper is over, he takes a cup and raises it and blesses it and says, “This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of your sins. As often as you drink of this cup, do this in remembrance of me.”

Jesus and the disciples then sing a hymn and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. It takes up **19 verses in Mark’s gospel** and **25 verses in the Gospel of Luke**. They all have roughly the same story. But we get to John’s Gospel and is not 18 or 19 or 25 verses. It’s **155 verses devoted to what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper. 5 chapters** of a 21-

chapter book are devoted to what Jesus says and does during the Last Supper, and he **doesn't do any of the things that we read** in Matthew, Mark and Luke. He doesn't take the bread and the wine and bless them and say the things he did in the other Gospels.

As we learned a few weeks ago, **John gave us hints of communion** earlier in his gospel. Instead, we read about another part of the meal in which Jesus goes about washing the disciples' feet, which is where we are going to begin today's message. He does this dramatic action with the basin and water and a towel.

### **GRAPHIC          Washing Feet**

In the first century and ancient near East, people wore sandals which were open-toed. They were not comfortable, but they did allow people to walk on dirt roads, which they did most of the time. We think the average person walked around 5 miles a day. When we went to the Holy Land several years ago, many of us had fitness watches and we walked around 5 miles a day going from place to place. While we had nice walking shoes or boots, the people in the first century had sandals with no arch support or cushy insoles. They certainly did not have Nike's! Someone sent me this very unholy cartoon years ago. And someone offered to buy me some of these Jesus tennis shoes, but that just seemed distasteful.

**GRAPHIC   Jesus Nikes**

**GRAPHIC   Jesus Tennies**

**GRAPHIC   Jesus sandals**

Here are some sandals that have been discovered at archeological sites near the Holy Land from the time of Jesus. How do you suppose your feet feel when you get home each night under those conditions? Are they comfortable? Are they tired? Are they sore?

When you walked into a home in the first century in ancient near East, you would take off your shoes. You didn't have socks and so you

would be barefoot. Your feet would **ache** and what else? Your feet would **stink**. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I must be honest, even your feet sometimes stink.

When I was doing youth ministry full-time, one of my favorite things to do was take kids on mission trips. We often went to Native American nations in different parts of California and Arizona, and we would work all day in the hot sun, sometimes on the roof of homes installing new shingles. We then would head back to our accommodation, which usually was a church gymnasium or some other large community room that was available to us for the week. All the kids would take off their shoes and put on flip-flops once we got there, and on the first night it was clear that either the **shoes had to sleep outside** or we did! After a full day of 50 people working in the hot sun, it was clear that the shoes were **too stinky for sleeping**.

We also made each of the **kids take a shower** before we sat down for dinner or dinner was unbearable. One year I had a young man who refused to take a shower and so I had two older kids hold him down while I hosed him off. He **claimed it was child abuse**, but all the other kids in the youth group informed him that him being unwilling to take a shower was **child abuse to the rest of us!** The funny part was that he came to like being hosed off each day and it became a ritual for us until it turned into a **full-blown water fight**.

This is what it was like in the time of Jesus. Their bare feet would accumulate **dust and grime and sweat** from a full day of walking in a hot climate. So, before you enter the home for a meal, you wash your feet. Just like each of the kids took a shower and just like you might **wash your hands before dinner**, you would wash your feet before you came into the house and before you sat down at the table. By the door there would be a basin and a pitcher of water and a towel so each person to wash their feet.

This ritual goes way back, and you find it in the very first book of

the Bible in **Genesis 18**. Abraham has three strangers come to visit and he doesn't know they are angels because they look like real people. When they come to Abraham's tent, he invites them to stay the evening and have supper. He then says this in verse 4.

**BIBLE**      ***4 Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet.***

### **GRAPHIC**   **Foot washing**

1800 years before Christ, this is how people acted when they came into a home, and it's mentioned several more times in the Old Testament, or the Hebrew Bible. Typically, you would wash your own feet using the basin and a towel with water. You would feel refreshed and ready for a visit and a meal. It was good manners because you would smell better and it was hospitality from the host to provide the basin and the water and the towel.

In those days, people often had servants, it may be that one of your servants would wash the feet of your guests. But the Jewish law in the Torah from several hundred years before Christ made it clear that if your slaves were Jewish, they were not to be asked to clean the feet of your guests. It was beneath them, even as a slave. So, if you were Jewish and you have Jewish servants, they would not wash people's feet who came in your home. It would have to be a **Gentile who was a servant or slave** who would wash the feet of your guests, because it was seen as so demeaning to do this task.

Jesus and the disciples are coming to Last Supper, the Jewish Feast of Passover, and he is going to be crucified the next day. They arrive at what was probably the upper room, and preparations have already been made for the dinner. At the door, there is a pitcher and a towel and a basin. There is no servant, so the disciples are supposed to wash their own feet, which they have done thousands of times in their lives. The first disciple enters the room, looks down and sees the basin and the towel and I imagine pauses, and then walks past. Why didn't he

wash his own feet? We don't really know.

## **GRAPHIC            Last Supp**

The next disciple watches the first one and he also pauses for a moment at the basin and the towel, and he also walks on by. They all of course take off their sandals and recline at the dinner table on the floor. Tables were no more than 6 inches off the ground in the ancient near-East and they would recline around the table with their feet out into the room and not even one of them would stop and wash their feet. Why didn't any of them stop and wash their feet?

Here's what I think. I think that each one of those disciples, having traveled with Jesus for three years, knew him all too well. They figured that **if they stopped to wash their own feet that they might be stuck** there doing it for everyone else. They might have to wash the stinking feet of the disciples next to them. I think every one of them probably thought that if they stopped and washed their feet, they would have **the position of the lowest slave** and be forced to wash the feet of everyone else. They probably thought to themselves, **"I would rather not wash my feet then get stuck washing everyone else's."**

One of the reasons I think this might be the case is because of what we read in **Luke's gospel about what happened in the upper room**. The disciples didn't understand that Jesus had come to Jerusalem and he was going to sacrifice himself. They thought he was going to ascend to his throne and become the long-awaited king and Messiah they were expecting, who would overthrow the Romans and be hailed as a savior who was strong and mighty. They were **debating which one of them might be the greatest** as they were at this meal. They wondered who would sit on his right hand and who would sit on his left when Jesus assumed the throne.

Can you imagine this? **Three years with Jesus and they are still debating which one is the greatest?** They still haven't got it which is why I think this whole meal is a set up job from Jesus. He's planning on

**teaching them something at this meal** and so he sets it up this way. They sit down at the table, and before they even eat, Jesus gets up and he takes the basin and the pitcher of water and the towel and he begins to wash their feet.

In 2003, the Gospel of John was made into a film. In this film, they take the gospel Word for Word and put it in visual form. I love how the filmmaker depicts this scene and I want you to watch the fingers of the disciples and their facial expressions. See if you don't notice the extreme discomfort and the embarrassment and shame, they seem to be feeling as Jesus gets up to wash their feet.

## **VIDEO                    Jesus Washes Feet**

John then tells us this...

**BIBLE        *12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.***

In the Greco-Roman world, one of the highest virtues was honor. If you were someone who had achieved honor, then people waited on you. They respected you and they didn't expect you to play the role of servant. You were an honored individual. Jesus turns this idea on its head with his example. There is a **new virtue of humility** which Jesus gives his disciples and those who would follow him.

This changes everything. In Judaism and Christianity and Western cultures today, when we see someone who is in a high position and

they have people who wait upon them, we recognize **that's a big deal** and they might be very important. But if we see someone who is in a high position and **humble themselves**; and they care about others; and they practice servant leadership in the workplace; and they are interested in the needs of people who are several rungs below them on the socioeconomic ladder, we usually respect that person. We say things like, "That person has **character**."

Do you know where that started? That wasn't started by someone who wrote a book on servant leadership 40 years ago. It was started by Jesus, and it influenced **all Western civilization**, this act in this example that he teaches his disciples and us today because John has recorded it in his gospel. The apostle Paul puts it this way of Philippians 2:3-5.

**BIBLE**     ***3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. 5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.***

That's the example that Jesus gives his disciples and us when he washes their feet, and then he gives them a command that drives this point home.

**BIBLE**     ***33 "Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer... 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."***

This kind of love that Jesus is talking about is not about the warm, fuzzy feeling that you get for someone that you like. **It's not about affection or erotic love or romantic love.** Jesus is talking about a determination to practice good towards the other person, even if they don't deserve it. It's to look to see who needs compassion and kindness, mercy and grace. Who needs that touch which might be a

sacrifice on your behalf? It's about building people up, even when we don't feel like it, because this kind of **love is a choice**. We choose to do the loving thing and **then the feelings come**. It's not, "If it feels good, do it." It's, "**Do it, and then it will feel good.**"

**SLIDE                    Loving Well**

Jesus will show us the greatest example of that when he **hangs on the cross the next day. It's a costly love** which entails sacrifice. Jesus defines what this looks like when he says, "Just as I have loved you, you also should **love one another.**" Remember that he has just washed their feet and so he is now pointing back to that act as a sign of what this love looks like. John tells us this at the beginning of chapter 13.

**BIBLE            *1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.***

How did he do this? He washed their feet. We come to the end of this text and Jesus tells them, commands them, just as they had seen him love them, they should love one another. This example of cleaning feet, and this command of loving well, are **intimately tied together**. The example he sets in practicing humble servanthood toward someone else is what love looks like. Jesus goes on to drive this point home in John 15.

**BIBLE            *3 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.***

The ethic of love which Jesus is showing us is one of **self-sacrifice** and a willingness to serve others. It's about giving up of ourselves so we might bless and lift up others. Remember that **Jesus came to show us what it means to be fully human and fully alive**. He came to show us who God really is and what it means to experience his light and life in our lives. Jesus came to **heal the brokenness in our world, one human being at a time**. He is showing us that this is the way the world is

healed.

**In the story of Adam and Eve, they didn't care what God wanted in the garden.** It was all about them and what they wanted, what they wanted for themselves. **Jesus comes to reverse the curse and restore paradise** by helping us to see that it is in serving other people in which we find healing in life. When we do that, **we find our own life is blessed**, which is what he says at the end of the foot washing. If we do these things, then we will be blessed and the world will be healed.

Imagine **what every marriage would look like** if two people went into each marriage determined to **serve** one another, to **bless** one another, to **build one another up**, to **encourage** one another, even when they don't feel like it. Imagine what **the world** would look like when it comes to **poverty or gross injustice**, if everyone is choosing to live this way, self-sacrificially. Imagine how few wars there would be in the world if people chose to live this way.

Jesus calls his disciples and then after his resurrection, **he sends them out to go and teach the world** by making disciples of everyone. Imagine if we took this seriously and we were to serve and love one another in this way? **Would the world look different?** This is what it means to be human and to experience the light and life offered by Jesus Christ. **What does that look like?**

## **GRAPHIC Mary**

Mother Antonia Brenner was born Mary Clarke on December 1, 1926, in Los Angeles. Her father was a remarkably successful businessman, and they were able to move to Beverly Hills when she was a child. Their neighbors in the 1930s and 40s were the movie stars of Hollywood. She **grew up in the lap of luxury** and had everything she wanted. She was married and divorced twice, and had seven children, living in Beverly Hills, California.

In **1969, she had a dream that she was a prisoner at Calvary** and about to be executed, when Jesus appeared to her and offered to take

her place. She refused his offer, touched him on the cheek, and told him she would never leave him, no matter what happened to her. At some point in the 1970s, she chose to devote her life to the Church, in part because of this dream. She did mission work in Los Angeles and then eventually went on a trip to **Tijuana, Mexico** and she began to serve prisoners in **La Mesa prison**. It was a prison designed for **2000** people but today holds **7000** and it houses not only male prisoners but sometimes their **spouses and children**.

As an **older, divorced woman, she was banned** by church rules from joining any religious order, so she went about her work on her own. She founded an order for those in her situation: **the Eudist Servants of the Eleventh Hour**. She eventually went down to the prison and asked the warden if she could **pay to live in the 10' x 10' prison cell**. When he agreed, she went **back to Beverly Hills and sold her home and her car** and everything she owned and moved to Tijuana. She spent the next **35 years living** in a 10' x 10' cell.

In **2003**, her religious community was formally approved by Rafael Romo Munoz, Bishop of the Diocese of Tijuana. Here's a picture of her in that prison ministering to those incarcerated there.

#### **GRAPHIC            Mother Antonia Brenner**

In addition to her normal work involving the prisoners, she negotiated an end to a riot by stepping into the middle of the fighting. She also persuaded the jail administrators to discontinue prisoner incarceration in substandard cells known as the tumbas (tombs). The road outside the jail, known until recently as "Los Pollos" ("The Chickens"), was renamed in November 2007 to "Madre Antonia" in her honor. 10 years before she died, she said these words in 2003.

**SLIDE**            (Use smaller graphic of her next to quote)

***"Happiness does not depend on where you are. I live in prison and I have not had a day of depression in 25 years. I have been upset, angry and sad but never depressed,***

***because I have a reason for my being. The reason for my being is to serve others in this place where God has put me."***

What an amazing woman, who was blessed to be a blessing. She would have been 100 this year. This kind of love changes the world. This kind of service changes the world into the kingdom of God for everyone and for each one of us. Most of us are not called to move to a 10' x 10' prison cell, so what does it look like for ordinary human beings?

**Every day when we wake** up there must be **10 possible ways** that we can live out this call of Jesus in our daily lives. Sometimes small ways and sometimes big ways are **right in front of us** if we are paying attention. Some of you give blood and in doing so you give life. Some of you go down and serve at the soup kitchen. Some of you serve with Volunteers of America. Some of you serve the person in your office or in your school who needs a word of encouragement that day. Why do you do any of those things? We do them because of the new commandment, which is to love one another, and this is what love looks like.

Several years ago, I met with a woman in our congregation who had registered with the **bone marrow registry**. She was able to be a part of a bone marrow transplant and literally save someone's life. The procedure is not particularly pleasant, so why in the world would you give up your time and experience trauma to your body for somebody whose name you don't even know? We do these kinds of things because Jesus said we are blessed when we serve others in this way and it's a new commandment that he is given to us. The world will know that we are his disciples and that we love one another when we do these kinds of things. That's an **act of discipleship** and a way of living out this Christian faith which we are called to by Jesus.

I have watched spouses take care of each other when going

through debilitating illnesses like Parkinson's and memory loss, doing things for each other that we never really imagine when we get married. I was at the rec center and watched one of our members assist a man who was trying to get into the **handicapped restroom stall** and was having a difficult time. He went into the stall and helped the man use the restroom and do something that most men would be extremely uncomfortable doing with another man. What I witnessed was pure love.

This commandment from Jesus to love well begs questions of us who seek to follow him. **Am I a loving person? Do I reflect the love of Jesus every day? Do I aim for that as one of my goals when I get up in the morning? Do I see myself as a servant or someone who is waiting for others to serve me?** Jesus calls us to live a life of love that changes the world. We become blessed if we are willing to do that. I'm pretty sure that gentleman who **helped the man in the restroom** left that day more blessed than when he arrived for his workout. He thought he was coming to work out his body, and he ended up **working out his soul** his heart.

The world will change as we live this life of love. That leads us to the last part of the sermon that we find in John 14 which is a promise that comes from Jesus which allows us to **trust something deeply** that is meant to sustain us through every moment life might throw at us. We have talked about the **example of washing feet**. We have talked about the **commandment to love well**. Those lead us to **a gift that is promised** by Jesus as the Last Supper ends.

### **GRAPHIC Life After Loss book**

When the supper is over, Jesus once again tells them that he's getting ready to leave them. **He says, "I'm going to die."** He has to say this because one of our natural human reactions to loss and death is denial. We hand this book out regularly here at Summit Church for those going through loss. I have been wrestling with some feelings as

we (our family) approach the 10-year anniversary of our son's death. The book is called *Life After Loss: A Practical Guide to Renewing Your Life After Experiencing Major Loss* by Bob Deits. He talks about one of the keys to moving through our loss is to take time to be honest and don't be afraid to say out loud to yourself, "They are dead. He is dead. She is dead" don't say "gone" or "passed away" or "passed on." Use the word "dead." We need to hear ourselves say it. Don't be afraid of our emotions because not even the hysteria will hurt. If we don't get honest then we will never move through it. One of our challenges as Americans is **we think that death is optional**. It is not. Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for this moment.

Some of the disciples are scared and some are anxious. Some are not sure what to think and maybe even afraid of losing their own lives. In the middle of all those emotions, Jesus says these words that I often read at funerals. Listen to what he said to the disciples that night at the table.

**BIBLE**     *1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."*

I love the imagery in this text. Jesus talks about heaven as his Father's house. Elsewhere in the Gospels, he talks about the Temple in Jerusalem where the people worshiped his Father's house. Which one is it? Is his Father's house in heaven or where the people worshiped in the Temple? Remember that one of the key things happening at the time that John is writing his gospel is that the **Jewish followers of Jesus are being kicked out of the temple**. John remembers these teachings of Jesus and these words to assure them that the **Temple is simply a foretaste** or a foreshadowing of what is to come.

I tell people when they have lost a loved one who is a part of the church, and they are part of the church, that they will **never be closer** to their loved one who died than **when they are in worship**. Worship is one of those **thin places where heaven and earth** meet. While we are singing praise, and connecting with God here, we are **joining the Saints** who have gone before us in heaven. We connect with our loved ones here in this place, which is why I sometimes have people tell me they feel like they are hearing their loved one's voice next to them singing even though they have died.

**SLIDE      Oikos = "house, where family gathers"**

The Greek word for house is Oikia or Oikos, which isn't just about four walls and a building in which the family lives. **Oikos signified a household or home or where the family gathers**. It wasn't just a physical place, but **where the family was together**. This means that the idea Jesus is trying to give to us is that in his Father's household, where the family all gathers, there is room enough for you because there is plenty of room. He says that he will prepare a room for each one of us and that if he does that, he will come back for us.

**Jesus is not saying that he has our death planned** and he's going to take us at a certain time. Accidents happen and people do bad things and sometimes the heart gives out, but Jesus is not going to come and take us at some point because he needs us in heaven.

But if we take these words of Jesus at face value, then when my time on this earth is finished, he is going to come back for us. It won't be the Angels or a chariot but it will be Jesus. This is a beautiful picture of Jesus standing on the other side with his hand reaching out to us. He will put his arm around us, or maybe for some of us he will carry us, to his Father's house. This beautiful picture is a promise.

**SLIDE      "I'll be with you"**

I think of the woman who was dying in her hospital room with her family gathered around. It was minutes before she died and her family

had a wonderful visit with her and was circled around her bedside. She turned to them with a faint voice and said, **“Will someone please go to the window and let that man in?”**

They looked and didn't see anyone and her daughter said, **“Mom, there isn't anyone there at the window.”**

“Yes, there is,” the mom replied. “Would you please go let the man in who is standing outside the window?”

A few minutes later, she laid her head down and she died, knowing there was **Jesus at the window**, waiting to take her home.

I think of the doctor who was making house calls around the turn of the last century. He was driving a horse drawn carriage, and he always took his dog with him when he went out to make those house calls because it kept him safe and was his companion as he traveled from place to place. Whenever he went in to visit with a family, **the dog would stay on the front doorstep.**

It was his last visit of the day and the man he was seeing as his patient was dying. He knocked on the door and the man hollered for him to enter. He opened the door and told his dog to stay out on the porch while he went inside. He pulled a chair up next to the man's bed and he took his vital signs and his temperature and his pulse and his blood pressure. The doctor then said to his patients, “I know you know this, but the end is drawing near.”

The man said, “Yes Doc, I know.”

The doctor asked, “Do you have any questions?”

The man replied, **“I'm just scared Doc. What happens after this? What happens when I die?”**

At that moment, the doctor's dog began to **scratch and whimper** at the door, whining to get in. The doctor said his patient, “Do you hear that sound? That's my dog on your front doorstep. He's never been inside your house. He has no idea what's on the other side of the door.

The only thing he knows is that **his master is on the other side** of the door, and if his master is on the other side of the door, then it **must be okay.**”

***“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”***

I think of the young man, 21 years old, who was in hospice care in his bedroom and turned to his parents and said, **“Mom and dad, I just want to go home.”**

He was talking about his heavenly Father’s house. Where Jesus has prepared a place for him. Don’t let your hearts be troubled and don’t be afraid. The promise is that **Jesus has prepared a place** for us that when we leave this place there is more than enough room for us on the other side. Not only do I believe that, but **I’m counting on that, and so can you.**

At the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus gave us an example of what it means to serve one another by **washing feet**. He gave us a new commandment **to love one another well**. And he gave us a promise that we don’t have to be afraid because Jesus will come back for us and be with us always as we **trust deeply** in him.

## **SLIDE                  Prayer**

*Lord, how grateful we are for these words of farewell that you left with your disciples. We see the urgency you felt. You knew you would die. You wanted them to understand what it means to be your disciple. You call us to look and see who needs a touch, who needs care and compassion, and a helping hand. We hear you Jesus, when you say that to be your disciple means that we love one another, our enemies, our neighbors, our friends, the people that we meet. Help us to love well.*

*God, we confess to you that there are times where we primarily are interested in ourselves. We become self-absorbed, self-interested*

*and selfish. Forgive us. Help us to remember today the words of your son Jesus that calls us to serve others. Help us to remember that we are blessed when we give ourselves a way. Help us to pause during the chaos and busyness of our day to care, to serve, to bless and to love.*

*Forgive us for the times when our voices have had bitterness in them; when we have treated others with contempt, even those closest to us like our spouses and our children and our friends. Help us to be people who love others in the way you love us. Give us strength to love when we can't do it on our own.*

*Finally, God, even in the face of death, help us to fully trust that when this life is over, your hand is there waiting for us. We love you and praise you and we offer ourselves to you. In your holy name, Amen.*

## **March 21-22 Order**

1. Jenny welcomes people.
2. Song – “Goodness of God”
3. Song – “Raise a Hallelujah”
4. Jeff welcomes and shares:
  - A. QR Code
  - B. Invites people to greet each other.
5. Sermon Video Intro
6. Sermon
7. Offering (Guatemala)
8. Med Moments
9. Song – “Great Are You God”
10. Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
11. Care Ministers
12. The Bridge
13. Lenten Soup Supper at St. Mark’s Wednesday at 6
14. Dinner with the Pastors this Thursday at 6
15. Closing Prayer