Matthew 26:17-75; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:7-62; John 13:1-38

Holy Thursday is also known as Maundy Thursday. Maundy? What does that mean? Well, as you go back through the languages, you find that it means, “commandment”. In this case it is associated with Jesus washing the feet of His disciples.

 *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one*

 *another’s feet. John 13:14*

Just before supper,Jesus gets up and washes the feet of His disciples to show them that no one is above serving. In this case, He was doing one of the lowliest jobs and so He was *really* serving. The commandment to serve one another no matter the task is meant for all of us. The second half of the Great Commandment is that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. As Jesus finishes this task, they begin the meal.

This celebration meal commemorated the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the beginning of Passover. Unleavened bread represents the escape from bondage and slavery, when the Jews were led by Moses out of Egyptian captivity and nourished by the manna which God provided. (The book of Exodus). The Passover represents God’s saving grace, when the Jewish people painted lambs blood above their doorway, to indicate their obedience and belonging to God, so that He would “pass over” their house, sparing them death and giving them life. (Exodus 12:12)

Rescued from bondage, slavery and death. Jesus would accentuate these points throughout the meal, as a foreshadowing of the grace offered by Him, as He would suffer on the cross for us. It is at this supper that Jesus institutes Communion. As He breaks the bread, He declares that His body will be broken for us so that our sins will be forgiven. In other words, no more bondage and slavery to those things that have a strong hold on us. He then offers the wine, which represents His blood which is poured out for us. I don’t know about you, but if my blood was poured out, I’d be dead. And that’s exactly what He is saying. He’s dying so that we won’t. But notice that He offered up the bread and wine to the disciples and if they wanted it they had to take it. They had to receive what He was giving in order to have it as theirs. They were partaking together, it was communion.

 *Communion: the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level. Webster.*

God didn’t send Jesus here to die for us so that we could get a ticket to heaven, despite our carefree, do whatever with whoever and whenever, lifestyle. If that were the case, then why come at all? No. It’s an intimate gift to us and we need to receive it intimately. It’s part of God’s plan to restore our relationship with Him that is broken when we turn away from Him and live our life without Him. Listen, to receive the gift, you need to turn towards Him and receive the gift from Him, in order to have it as yours.

Have you done that? Have you heard Him knocking at the door? Have you decided you are on the wrong track, missing the mark or falling into the tractor beam of strongholds? Jesus says you can come to Him and He will give you rest. John 3:16 says, that if you believe in Jesus, He will give you life eternal. Romans 10:9 says, that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead so that our sins would be forgiven, then we are saved. Saved from what? Saved from eternal death.

It’s a gift He is freely giving and all you have to do is turn towards Him and receive it. You can do it right now.