



# SERMON OF THE WEEK

First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu at Ko'olau  
September 15, 2013

**"Do You Know What I've Done To You" (Questions from God Series)  
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**J**ohn 13:1 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 13:2 The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,

John 13:4 got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around Himself.

John 13:5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

John 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

John 13:7 Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

John 13:8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

John 13:9 Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

John 13:10 Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

John 13:11 For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

John 13:12 After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

John 13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.

John 13:14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

John 13:16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

John 13:17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

It's great to be back after my sabbatical. Thank you so much for

allowing me to get refreshed. But after five days of being back at work, I had to go on another trip, this time to California for a Fuller Seminary Board of Trustees meeting. I was excited to go because it would be the first meeting of our new president, and I was wondering if there would be new policies or extravagantly different leadership style in heading up our meetings.

Arriving at my hotel at half past midnight in Pasadena, I was hoping for a gracious welcome, knowing that often I don't receive one from that hotel. When I told the desk clerk my name, he said that there was no reservation for "Dan Chun." I thought to myself, "This is the third time this is happening." I graciously told him that 75% of the time I check into this hotel, I am told that but I don't have a room.

I told him to check again. "Nope you are not registered," he said. I told him a third time and still no Dan Chun. Then I told him that I was with Fuller Seminary. He said, "Oh, yes, you are here and you are pre-registered." I thought, "What is 'pre-registered'? Is that like having a reservation?"

He said, "Oh, you were already checked in. Here's your key."

Pre-checked. Wow, maybe the new president is asking for more red carpet treatment for the trustees. So up I went to the 11<sup>th</sup> floor with my suitcases. I was tired from the long trip.

**G**ot to the door of my room, and my heart dropped. Oh, no. There, dangling from the doorknob, was a Do Not Disturb sign. What would you? Would you walk into a room with a Do Not Disturb sign?

I decided not to enter, and so I called the front desk to tell them of my situation. The same guy at the desk re-checked the computer and said, "Oh no, we gave your key to a woman." I thought, "Well, this is a unique way for the new president to service the trustees. There's a woman on my bed."

Turned out her name was not Goldilocks, but was spelled C-H-E-N. The front desk was one letter off when they gave away my room. So in the end they upgraded me to a bigger room, which I didn't need but took anyway because I was really tired.

The moral of the story? When someone asks you a question, make sure you give the right answer. And when God asks you a question, try to give the right answer.

We continue our series on God's Questions For Us. And this week, the question is a doozy; it's rich with meaning.

Here's the setting. In Middle Eastern times, as you could guess, they walked around in ancient Crocs—sandals not made of rubber but of leather, with a flat sole with a few leather straps to wrap around the feet and ankles.

Roads back then were dirty and dusty. Dry weather meant the road could be inches deep of dust, and wet weather meant slippery mud. It made sense then for houses to have large pots of water at their door, with a servant ready with a towel and pitcher to wash the feet of family members or guests when they arrive.

Before going to a feast, it was customary for people to take a full bath. But then walking to the home of the host got their feet dirty, so they needed to wash their feet before going in and reclining on the floor at the table.

One commentator notes that Jesus and the disciples could easily have bathed their bodies on their own, but the second washing symbolized the cleansing that comes with baptism that celebrates one entering into the household of faith.

Jesus and His disciples didn't have servants traveling with them so the disciples had to share the duties. So in our Bible episode today, you can see why the disciples were stunned, shocked, in dismay when Jesus takes off His outer robe, ties a towel around his waist, kneels down, and begins washing everyone's feet. Jesus gets his hands dirty from taking off all of the dirt, dust, and mud from their feet, INCLUDING the feet of his enemy Judas, the man who will betray him to a painful death.

It is at the conclusion of our passage that Jesus asks – Do you know what I have done to you? Jesus had to make sure the disciples realized that just as He, their leader, had served them, so must they serve others, including those they lead.

Jesus asks us, "Do you know what I have done to you?" That question should rock us! When we get to wrap our minds around the full impact of what Jesus did, we should have a stunning clarity of the greatness of God more than we have ever had before. If you were one of the disciples in the room with Jesus, would you have realized, would you have known the significance of Him washing your feet? How He humbled Himself as a way of leading by example? This is major!

Here's the scope. The Almighty God of the Universe decides

to show our planet earth how much He loves us. He comes down to this world as Jesus and takes the form of a baby, born not into riches but to a simple life to the family of a common carpenter. Jesus was born in a manger and placed in a trough. He becomes vulnerable to the violence of this world. Soon after He is born, soldiers go searching for him to kill him. So off to Egypt His family goes to protect Him.

Jesus grows up and becomes a carpenter like His earthly dad, Joseph. Jesus, the King of Kings, chooses to humbly live WITH the people, not ABOVE them. Later He has followers, disciples. Even though Jesus can calm raging seas, stop howling winds with His words, even though He can cast out demons, and heal the sick, He, in one of His last meals with the disciples, chooses to wash their feet as if He were a common servant.

Do we realize what He has done to us? The greatest, most powerful man, who is fully God and fully man, would be willing to humble Himself and wash your feet? It would be like meeting Pope Francis for the first time. Just before your dinner with him in the Vatican, the Pope gets down to his knees to wash your feet. And you say, "Whoa, please no. This isn't right."

It would be like going to visit the nearly 93-year old Billy Graham in Montreat, North Carolina. We show up at the doorstep of his log cabin house for dinner and the aged famous evangelist gets up from his chair, and slowly lowers himself down to his knees and gets a towel to wash our feet. And we say, "No, Dr. Graham, please stop. What are you doing? I should wash your feet!"

In our Bible text, Jesus, the Messiah, gets down on His knees to wash the scum, the dirt, the caked mud off of the disciples' feet! Imagine being one of the disciples. You'll probably say:

**N**o, this is not right, Lord. Please get up.” But Jesus keeps on washing feet, and when He finishes, He says to you and me, “Do you know what I have done to you (or as some translations say, done for you)?”

Friends, hear this. As He washed his disciples feet, so He has washed every foot of everyone in this room. He has served you, healed you, helped you, given you great head start in this country. We may not know it, but He has. And that’s the sadness there. We may not know it. This is crazy love! The God who made the Universe comes to us humbly and has served us as a servant by dying for us.

He was willing to be tortured for us. He was willing to be whipped and punched for us. He is the Servant to the max. Spat upon, betrayed, condemned by religious leaders, seen as an outcast by society even to the point that the people voted to have Him killed and, get this, it was all for us. He allowed himself to be sacrificed so that His blood would wash away our sins.

Christianity is not an intellectual head-trip. It should be a heart-felt, deep understanding that God loves us and has been loving us from the beginning. He is serving us, rooting for us, caring for us from the time we were formed in our mother’s womb. He would do all of this for us! He is so into us!

But wait! This is where the record scratch goes...iirrk! We have to stop right here because some here might take what I just said and say, “Great, now I can live a narcissistic life. It’s all about me. The universe is all about me. Jesus’ main goal is to serve my every whim and wish.” No.

When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, He was saying—“Do likewise with others,” as opposed to as

a Christian you now get to sit by a swimming pool, sip mint julep tea, eat bons bons and wait for God to serve you.

Jesus asks us: Do you know what I have done to you? I have lived a life where even though I have the riches of the universe and the greatest mana in the Milky Way and beyond, I have chosen to serve you and others. If you bear the name of being a follower of Me, then you must do likewise.

Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve....” (Mark 10:45)

That’s our calling if we now choose to follow Jesus. When the Apostle Paul first converted, he related what Jesus said to him, “But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, TO APPOINT YOU TO SERVE and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you.

“I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:16-18)

I don’t think that is just for the apostle Paul. That’s for us all. Our mission in life is to help people open their eyes to turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God to receive forgiveness of sins and have faith in God. That’s the whole mission statement in three verses.

Hear Jesus saying to us, “Be willing to get down and dirty to help others. Be willing to sacrifice your life so that others might know about Me.

My fans applaud what I have done. But my followers DO what I have done. Do you know what I have done

to you? I washed your feet, you the creature even though I am the Creator. I have washed your feet even though you are a sinner and I have not sinned.”

In verse 16 Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.” (John 13:16)

What He is saying is, if He suffered, then we will too. Our lives will not be better than His. Here’s the twist of both-and. On one hand, If Jesus washes our feet, know that He knows all of the pain of where we walked, all of the cuts, bruises and slashes we have suffered in life. He knows our pains, and He empathizes with us. Jesus says come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened. This is a God who gets it, who knows our pain and our need for love.

However, on the other hand, life is not always about us. It’s not to be a narcissistic life. It’s also to be a life of service. As we have experienced God’s love, share that love with others.

When we celebrated Beebe’s life two weeks ago in that wonderful congregational concert and birthday roast, we saw how love is a mark of Beebe’s life. Mentors served her, and she in turn has served others. She is willing to help other artists get better. She rehearses them. She rehearses symphonies and soloists so they can get better.

As long as I have known Beebe, and that’s about 33 years, she has always been so exuberant in her service. Over the years, if we needed to do a second Christmas Eve service, she said, “I am there!” A third? “I’m in!” Fourth? And she said, “Okay, let’s do it!” How about a fifth Christmas Eve service? Beebe said, “If that is what is needed, I am there!” I have never ever heard her complain that the ministry is requiring too much work from her. Service is in Beebe’s heart.

If we could really understand in our hearts that Jesus was so willing to help, to serve us and die for us, we can get three things from that can be strong foundations for our lives.

When we fully come to terms with what Jesus has done to us and for us, then we should have a strong Theology of suffering, theology of failure, and theology of success.

And if we get this today, it can live with us for a lifetime. First of all:

### 1) Theology of Suffering

I know as your pastor that there are tons of suffering in our church. My heart goes out to all of you. There have been loved ones lost, jobs lost, dreams shattered, health evaporating, scary medical reports, stressed and strained marriages and friendships, scary financial situations. The lyrics of the song Fireworks can describe our life at times: "Do you ever feel like a plastic bag drifting through the wind wanting to start again? Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin, like a house of cards one blow from caving in? Do you ever feel already buried deep six feet under? Scream and no one hears a thing. Do you know there is still a chance in you cause there's a spark in you, you just gotta ignite the light and let it shine."

I would add the Light is Jesus Christ who says, "Do you know what I have done to you?" He would say, I really understand your suffering. I chose to live among you so I would know first hand the human suffering of physical and emotional pain. So when you pray to Me I get it. When you cry out, I get it. When you doubt and want to run and have a cup passed from your lips I get. When you feel forsaken by God the Father, I get it.

No other major religion has a God who came to earth to feel exactly what we have felt. But the deeper understanding of suffering is that we cannot escape it. Jesus as God suffered. Why should we the servants think we would live a better life than the master? If it was tough for Him, why do we complain that life is tough for us?

Jesus said, I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will face tribulation. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" John 16:33

Jesus says, "You will have tribulation and troubles in this life. That's fact, but with Me you can have peace in the midst of the trouble and you can have courage. You will have hope because if you stick with Me, I have conquered the world. It doesn't have to get to you in the end."

Our friend Jack Deere who has preached and taught here many times is going through the most painful experience. Ninety-three days ago today his wife Leesa collapsed after dinner and lost consciousness. She was put on a ventilator for months. They told Jack she was going to die. But she didn't.

Her hands, toes, fingers turned black. They told her if she lives longer, they may need to amputate the blackened fingers and toes. But somehow they got better months later. They finally removed the respirator, and she breathed on her own even though they didn't think that day would come. Today, Leesa still can't talk like she used to but she responds to conversations. She can mouth a word every few days.

Jack Deere is one of the most spiritual men I know, and yes, he and Leesa are suffering greatly now. Have he and Leesa gone through days and nights of bitterness, anger and despair?

You bet. But he still has a hope in Jesus who has not let him down. Why are he and Leesa suffering so much? A servant is not above His master.

If you are a follower of Jesus, then know the Holy Spirit is in you. It can ignite you even in your suffering, and bring you hope, strength and comfort. But don't fall into self-pity of "poor me, why am I suffering?" I'll talk more about self-pity next week, but self-pity is toxic. Why am I suffering? Because we all suffer. Why me? Why not you? Why should we be exempt from a life that Jesus did not avoid? That's life on this sinful planet. We can't escape pain. But we have hope in Christ.

### 2) Theology of Failure

Jesus says, Do you know what I have done to you? When we really know what Jesus has done for us, when we really know how much He loves us, when we can feel the pulsating reality of the Holy Spirit in our life, then we redefine failure.

For some, failure means not getting what we want. Well, maybe what we want we shouldn't get. Can you imagine if Jesus granted every single prayer exactly as we wanted it? In hindsight, what if we married all those persons, or got those cars, or spent that money, or got that job, or slept with that person, or eat all the food and all of that dessert we desired?

Failure means not achieving what we set out to achieve. But here is what happens when we have a Lord who washes our feet and knows what is really important in life. Maybe what we set out to achieve doesn't really make a difference in making us a better person. Maybe failure is not really failure. Just because we don't have a lot of money, or have a lot of fame, or lost that job, that doesn't mean we have failed.

**W**hen we talk about failure, we have to really know the difference between shame and guilt. If you have failed, and let's say you didn't get a project done in time, that doesn't mean you are a bad person. Guilt says I did a bad thing. Shame says I am a bad person. Guilt admits, "I blew it." Shame says, "I will never amount to anything."

Many in this room grapple with shame in our lives. While we SHOULD confess guilt of what we have done wrong and repent, we need to also cast out the demons of shame that say we will never be good enough, attractive enough, successful enough. With Jesus in our lives, the one who washes our feet says, "NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE OR WILL DO, I will wash your feet because I love you. You are valuable in my eyes. You may have failed in some tasks, but you are not a failure in my eyes. You are not a horrible person."

And there are people here in this sanctuary today who need to hear that.

The world puts shame on us. Jesus lifts that shame and throws it away. If you have done something wrong, then confess it. You are not someone I am ashamed of. You are not a failure. You are not stupid. You are not worthless. You are worthy of a foot-wash of the Lord Himself. Jesus says, You are never too low for me to wash your feet. And when we realize that we should have a lump in our throats and fall at the feet of Jesus and say thank you.

### 3) Theology of Success

If Jesus washes our feet, if He asks us, "Do you know what I have done to you" and we get it, then we are a success if we replicate that servant heart in all that we do. If we truly serve our friends, our spouses, our boss, and

the people we don't like, if we can be humble enough to know that all good things come from God, if we can be humble enough to know that we need God, if we try our best to serve our companies and families and friends then we are a success or maybe a better word, we are "fruitful" in God's eyes. Whatever we are ambitious for in life in our home or office, make sure it is in the context of true service. If we are faithful even in the midst of suffering, that will benefit others and us.

The most fruitful church is not the one that has the biggest attendance or the biggest budget. It is the one that has a great servant heart. It is the one that stays faithful to God in suffering. It is the one that is thankful for a God who comes down and washes our feet even when He didn't have to.

If Jesus says to us today "Do you know what I have done to you and for you," may we be able to say, "Yes, and I am so grateful! I am not worthy of your love, but I promise to reproduce and model it, and try to become more like you in all that I do at home, in my office, in my community."

Amen? Amen!

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*Sunday sermon texts are also available at [fpchawaii.org](http://fpchawaii.org). The audio version can be downloaded from iTunes. It can also be sent to you by e-mail. Request the free audio version at [fpchkoolau@gmail.com](mailto:fpchkoolau@gmail.com).*