

“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.” John 13:1 NLT

## lectio // John 13:1-17

John's general theme, “that you might know...” linguistically sets the final scene when Jesus is alone with his friends. And, not only does he write these words of mission, but also the completion of that mission as it pertains to those closest to him. Jesus loved, and loved to the very end! Then John tells us that Jesus sets up a very uncomfortable experience, forcing them to learn, forcing them to receive - it was not only unthinkable to point out, it was humiliating to have this done to them. Experiences have a way of glueing or galvanizing a truth to our bodies, MORE than our brains. And, the more we protest and stamp our feet like an unruly toddler, the deeper the object lesson burrows into our soul. It's annoyingly beautiful! But first, here's what John says about Jesus' position and experience to lead such an lesson. “Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.” Did you catch that? Jesus knew! Knew what? God had given him ALL AUTHORITY. So what does God do with all that power, rightful authority? How does he wield that strength? He gives them a pedicure. He cleans their feet. I hate to make the comparison, but have you seen the look on your toddler's face when they've pooped their pants and they NEED someone's help to clean their butt? They are not quite capable of doing it themselves, but they hate the fact that they have to lay there, legs in the air, in total submission to get the dirty deed done! They won't even look you in the eyes! Some of them sing, just to avert the moments of extraordinary uncomfortableness! These grown men had to have felt similar! Then the bible-drop point - “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.” KILL ME NOW! Wait? What? I have to do what? Ah, yes, better to give than receive huh? This is how you do love, Jesus reminds them, er - me.

Dad,  
 Just a little, not-so-little, reminder of what it looks like to love my friends well - to the very end. To serve, just as a lowly servant of the household serves. To submit my power and my position to you by lowering myself to do the things that helpers do. To drive a friend to a doctor's appointment because they just need some help and some company along the way. I get it. Thank you for the reminder.

**contemplatio**

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root