

# Take Off, Take Up, Transform

THE WAY WEEK 3 | JOHN REILLY

## John 13:3-15

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

**Upper Room Discourse:** the final moments that Jesus spends with His disciples before He is arrested and crucified.

Foot washing was a regular practice, typically performed by the lowest person in the household.

**Jesus takes on the position of the servant and calls us to do the same, reminding us who we were meant to be.**

## Formed by God for a purpose

- Genesis 1:26, Genesis 2:15
- Dominion: manage everything in partnership with Him, so that it would flourish

## Deformed by Sin

- Genesis 3:17-19
  - Destruction: struggle to survive
  - Ephesians 2:8-10
- Jesus didn't just come to save us from our sin, He came to save us for good works that He prepared for us to serve others.

## Transformed by Jesus

- John 13:4, John 10:17, Philippians 2:6-7
  - Jesus takes something off, so that He can take something up.
1. Transformation takes place when we take off our ego and take up humility.  
→ **Service is a partnership between us and Jesus.**

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours; yours are the only hands with which he can do his work, yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world, yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

- Teresa of Avila

2. Transformation takes place when we take off our desire to be first and take up a willingness to be last.

Mark 9:33-35

→ **Greatness is about kneeling down, not climbing up.**

\*Model to our children, celebrate it in them when you see it, and remind them that Jesus is who we follow.

3. Transformation takes place when we take off empty words and take up a living faith.

James 2:14-18

→ **There is an evidence of your faith that naturally comes out when you desire to serve other people.**

“God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does.”

- Martin Luther

4. Transformation takes place when we take off great acts of power and take up small acts of love.

Matthew 25:35-40

- **The works that go with the righteous into eternity are just everyday acts of kindness.**

### Matthew 7:21-23

- Don't aim so high that you miss the opportunities to kneel down.  
"Serving is dying many little deaths throughout your day."  
- Richard Foster

John 14:12

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

- When we're **empowered by His spirit** and we walk in the greater works **He has prepared for us** ahead of time, that's how **transformation happens**.

# the way.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID