

Maundy Thursday - April 17

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand'. John 13:6-7 NRSV

Peter's world was being flipped upside down. Nothing made sense of this night; it was not what he planned, and Peter was filled with questions. Peter could have kept silent and gone with the flow, but Peter was Peter, and he needed to ask his questions to make sense of what was happening.

We are people that are filled with questions about life. What is going to happen? Why did it happen? We want to know, we need to know all of the details so we can plan what will come or try to understand something that has occurred. Our world is filled with beautiful moments of love, kindness, caring, compassion, forgiveness, and grace, but it is also filled with tragedy, hate, sickness, hurt, sadness, failure, and brokenness.

We want to know why things happen to us or our loved ones and not others. We want to understand why we are in or have gone through the struggle. Sometimes, as faith-filled followers, we expect Jesus to give us the details, to give us the "why" to help us make sense of everything. However, Jesus does not promise to give us an understanding of what is happening in that moment.

What I love about this passage is that Jesus does not shy away from our questions, or desires to know and understand our situations. Jesus welcomes them. Jesus knows that we do not understand and lovingly he tells Peter...he tells us...that we do not understand this now, but later we will. Someday we will be filled with the answers to our whys, but until that day comes Jesus invites us to keep questioning and he will continue to serve us, to be with us, to walk with us, and to humbly wash our feet to cleanse us.

We are all invited to sit at Jesus' table, it is a table filled with beloved misfits, and he invites all of us to ask him our questions in this world, he promises us that someday, not now, but someday, we will understand. Jesus is the most treasured and faithful friend, he lets us say whatever we want, he serves us, and he loves us. This Lent season, choose to sit at the table with Jesus. Choose to allow Jesus to wash your feet. Choose to question and choose to accept the promise of not knowing now... but later. Choose Jesus as your forever faithful friend.

Rebecca Brownlee

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to choose you every day. Amen.