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**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**14TH APRIL, 2022**

**UCZ THEME: ALL ONE IN CHRIST- JOHN 17:21**

 **SUB- THEME: :“THE HUMBLE MASTER.”**

 **READING: JOHN 13:5-15**

**INTRODUCTION**

The United Church of Zambia is among the main Churches that celebrate Maundy Thursday, this liturgical event is celebrated every year, following the command that the Lord Jesus left for us. ‘’Maundy’’ comes from the Latin word ‘’Mandatum’’ which means commandment and the same word is connected to the English word Mandate. This further entails that, we are mandated to this command that Jesus left, ‘’Love one another as I have loved you’. It should be noted that, this day is celebrated on a Thursday before Easter hence, it is called Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday. As such it is worth noting that, Christians today observe Maundy Thursday which gives them an opportunity to commemorate the last Super and Jesus’ washing the feet of His disciples.

This is the commemoration and the institution of the Last Super (Lord’s supper) that Jesus had with His disciples, the breaking of bread and drinking the Wine, saying, “Do this in remembrance of me’’. On the good note, Maundy Thursday is very much associated with feet- washing that was done by Jesus as He personally washed the feet of His disciples, an act described in the Gospel of John chapter 13. This act demonstrates servant hood and humility. During the same event, our Lord Jesus instructed His followers to love and to serve one another. This is what we see on Maundy Thursday, Christians gathering to observe the Lord’s super and washing of the feet.

**TEXT SUMMARY**

Towards the final touches of Jesus Ministry, Jesus took time to educate His disciples on certain foundations of Ministry. In this regard, one of the lessons He taught them was the aspect of servant hood which He demonstrated in the actions He took during the last supper.

From the text we read, we note that; after supper Jesus prepared water and a basin, I should believe none of the disciples knew what was going to happen in that they didn’t expect the Master to perform that act. The disciples were caught unaware as the Master suddenly said; I will wash your feet today.

Beloved in the Lord, we should understand that, this brought arguments between the Master Jesus and His disciples as can be seen in the response of one of the disciples. Peter knew that, this act could not be done by the Master, but slaves only. That is why he first had to refuse to be washed and said to his Lord, “Lord you will not wash my feet” verse 8. It should be noted that washing of feet was the work of slaves that was taken advantage of, slaves had no say and no choice of work since they were just servants and not masters. As such, Jesus taking the form of a servant in washing His disciples’ feet was tantamount to lowering and embarrassing as a weak master that could be taken advantage of. Hence, the second response of Peter in verse 9; “Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head”. This statement shows that the slave could be taken advantage of since he or she has no say over what they did or were commanded to do. However, Peter was also convinced and accepted to be washed.

After He took it upon Himself to wash their feet as a Master taking the place of a servant, He finally had to justify this act by saying “this you should also do to one another”. It can be noted here that, He was proving to them that, washing of feet or doing the work of a servant as a Master is not a sign of weakness, but the greatest strength of a true Master.

**APPLICATION**

As we reflect on the “HUMBLE MASTER” let us consider the following point;

**Servant hood**

Brothers and sisters, like the saying goes, “power is sweet when you have it”, none of us desires to be a servant in that, we desire to have an upper hand in good things. Let us learn from the greatest Master who is our Lord Jesus Christ. Despite being the Master, He took the form of a servant by doing the work of servant. Servant hood in this regard, can be taken to our work places, where, as a master or boss of that company or institution could be seen serving your workers and other visitors a cup of coffee, a cup of Munkoyo or even a cup of Chibwantu. You do not always wait to be served even though you are a boss or master, this is not a sign of weakness as some may think, but a sign of strength and servant hood.

Beloved, our role model Jesus Christ washed the feet of His disciples and that did not make Him a weak Master, but a humble servant. As a leader in any organization, be a humble leader by choosing to serve those that work under you, don’t wait for your maid to greet you, don’t wait for your garden boy to greet you, exercise servant hood by extending your friendship by being the first to greet them, welcome them, thank them, that’s the sign of a humble master.

**Washing One Another’s Feet**

Jesus said to His disciples, “**you also have to wash one another’s feet**”. This is a command that was left for us to follow daily and not waiting for the next episode of feet washing, but should be a continuous process, that every Christian should undertake daily as long as he or she lives on the surface of earth. It simply means, always desire to serve and not be served, It is a well-known fact that, servants should be the ones to serve and not to be served, you may be a leader at Church, a Pastor, Prophet or any Church position, don’t take it for granted and use your position against people. Be a humble leader. Sweeping the Church building and surrounding can be feet washing, joining members as they plant trees, paint, renovate the buildings or simply participating in the work of others is doing what Jesus said, “ wash one another’s feet”.

**CONCLUSION:**

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we celebrate this Maundy Thursday, let us remember that, it’s all about being a humble master. Being a humble Master, desire to serve than to be served. Additionally, we need to serve everyone with humbleness as our role model Jesus Christ, the humble Master had shown us the way a humble master should be and portray oneself through washing His disciples’ feet. Therefore, just like Jesus Demonstrated to us, being a humble master is not a weakness but a strength, let’s all be humble masters and serve.

AMEN!

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
REV AARON MWAMBA SINYINZA OF ST, PAULS CONGREGATION**

**KASAMA EAST CONSISTORY –**

**NORTHERN PRESBYTERY FOR PREPARING THE**

**2022 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

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