

REMAIN:

Trusting Jesus When Life Is Hard

Following Jesus is sometimes presented as the easy road, a path of safety and happiness. Read the New Testament, and you'll see a much different story: following Jesus is a narrow road that is often marked by pain and persecution. On the night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Passover meal so he could prepare them for what was to come. In the face of suffering and death, Jesus said, *Do not let your hearts be troubled* (John 14:1), and in the following four chapters he taught his disciples how to trust and abide in Him when life hurts the most. Every Sunday in March we will be encouraged by Jesus' words as he teaches us how to remain in him.

March 8, 2026 - Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

Have you ever had the opportunity to have a final dinner or conversation with a loved one? What did they share with you, what did you say to them?

Do you really KNOW WHO JESUS is?

John 13:1-4 - It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

Jesus knew exactly the pain, abandonment, and humiliation he would face over the next 24 hours. **What was ahead of Jesus, and how does that make this final moment with his disciples even more shocking?**

Philippians 2:6-7 describes the character of Christ in this way: *“Though He was in very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage. Instead, He made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.”* **How does Jesus washing the filthy feet of his disciples illustrate this passage from Philippians? What does this reveal about the God we serve?**



Many of us were taught Jesus looked something like this. He was soft, calm, maybe even weak or effeminate. This isn't the Jesus of the Bible. Our Jesus is all-powerful, yet exhibits self-restraint. **What images of Jesus did you grow up with, and how does that impact your view of him today?**

Do you TRUST JESUS with the worst of you?

John 13:5-9 - “After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” 9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Why did Peter initially respond negatively when Jesus asked to wash his feet?

Can you think of a moment where you were wrecked by how truly filthy (sinful) you were?

Jesus wants all of you. What part are you holding back and why?

How much energy does it take for you to hide that 1% from God, family, or friends?

Do you REALIZE WHAT JESUS HAS DONE for you?

John 13:10-15 - “10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

How can you surrender that 1% over to Jesus today?



Women’s Retreat with Wendy Speake

Save the date to join us for a spring women’s retreat on Saturday, March 21 from 10am to 2:30pm! This retreat is open to women of all ages and life stages. Learn more and register: thestory.church/events



Save the Dates: Holy Week & Easter

Visit our website thestory.church/easter to save the dates for all of our special Holy Week services and events, and to learn more about serving this Easter!