



March 21

You made it! This is the last week of the Lenten journey. Together you logged over 500 miles; well done! The goal for these past 40 days was to develop a discipline for daily exercise and meditation. My hope for each of you is that you will continue this discipline each day.

This last reflection is based on a passage from the Gospel of Mark. As we read the reflections from the past weeks, a theme of love and service emerges. In my personal faith journey, these two themes serve as my spiritual template in the choices I make and in the ways I choose to serve and honor God.

As we enter into this final week before the celebration of Easter, pause and reflect on what the risen Christ means to you.

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM THE LOVE THAT COMPELS

Jesus says, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whomever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10: 43-45

In reading the Gospel text from Mark on the life of Jesus, one cannot fail to see that the ministry of Jesus centers on servanthood. Jesus' ministry was to be with the people; to meet them where they live and work and to bring the hope that transforms and reshapes lives. In the verse chosen for this reflection, Jesus says that to be great in the eyes of God we must first serve others; to live a life of service.

As Jesus' ministry is drawing to a close, he gathers his disciples for a last meal together. At this Last Supper, Jesus removes his robe, reaches for a towel and begins to wash the feet of each disciple. This is not only an act of great love but also serves to illustrate the ministry that Jesus is asking of his disciples; to minister to others, to be present and to be his hands, his feet, his heart.

Lent is a reflective season, a time of drawing inward. Lent compels us to seek what God is calling us to do; how to live His ministry. We remember that God has formed us to be more like God. We are given opportunities to be the best possible versions of ourselves. How do we live this calling?

If we believe that we are here to give freely to others, we must put others first – always. We embrace the call to serve the lost, the marginalized, the hurting, and the unloved by meeting them in the places where they live and work. We understand that our work becomes the light that penetrates the darkness.

We seek change in the world by starting first with ourselves knowing how deeply we are loved by God and that this love calls us to a life of servanthood. Accepting this love compels us to live boldly and without fear.

Prayer: *Jesus, your life was lived in service to others. Help us each day to live our lives as a reflection of yours and to be your hands, your feet and your heart in all that we do. Amen.*

Happy Easter!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Doris Acton