

#4

“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”
(Jn 13:14)



Live
For
Others

In his Gospel, John recalls the last hours with Jesus before he died and he emphasizes the fact the Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

*This is how people in those days welcomed their guests, who would arrive dirty from the dusty roads. However, **this was a job for the servants, not the master.***

IT’S A VERY CLEAR AND SIMPLE INVITATION. ALL OF US CAN UNDERSTAND IT AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE RIGHT AWAY, IN EVERY SITUATION AND IN EVERY PLACE.

As Christians, we have received the revelation of God’s love through the life and words of Jesus. Therefore, we have a «debt» to pay to others, to help them know his love, too.

WE NEED TO IMITATE JESUS BY WELCOMING PEOPLE AND SERVING THEM. THEN THEY TOO WILL GO OUT AND ANNOUNCE THAT GOD IS LOVE.

This means that first we need to love in concrete ways, just as Jesus did, and then follow up with words of hope.



Even when we are faced with complex situations or tragedies, and don’t know what to do, we can always start and **find a way to contribute to the good of others.**

WE HAVE TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK, WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN, AND DO EVERYTHING WITH GENEROSITY AND GOOD SENSE.



How can we live this Word of Life?



This is what Chiara Lubich said about it:
«Jesus does not ask us to blindly imitate everything he did. However, he did give us an incomparable and luminous example that we should always keep in mind.

IMITATING JESUS MEANS UNDERSTANDING THAT **WE CHRISTIANS HAVE MEANING ONLY IF WE LIVE FOR OTHERS, ONLY IF WE SEE OUR WHOLE EXISTENCE AS A SERVICE TO OTHERS, ONLY IF WE BASE OUR WHOLE LIFE ON THIS PRINCIPLE.**

Then we will accomplish what Jesus had most in his heart. We will have centered in on the heart of the Gospel. And we will most certainly be happy.»¹



Experiences
from around
the world:

Italy

To celebrate the end of the year, I went to a party at one of my friends’ houses.
It was a lot of fun with games, a movie and good food, but at the end of the night, it was obvious we had made a mess of the house.

I looked around and saw that my friends could care less about it and I understood that **no one had any intention of cleaning up.** So I decided to start by myself.



Even though it was not allowed, one of the boys drank too much alcohol, with tragic results, so much so that he had to be helped to get cleaned up.

I immediately offered to help him and gave him my sweater to put on while I tried to wash off his clothes.

Then I got the broom and mop and started cleaning the floor. That’s when one of my friends came up to me and asked: **«Why are you doing all this? Someone else will clean up this mess.»**

I answered right away, telling him very firmly that I was doing it because I am a Christian and I try to prove it by my actions.

In that moment, with all those teens, 90% of whom say they are atheists, I felt perfectly at ease, at peace with myself, and **in my heart I felt great joy, since I had been able to give witness to my Christian life and to my choice of God who is Love.**