

**RCC in the Word**  
**Week of April 23**  
**John 13-17**

As an earthly Father (Heb 12:9) it's hard to accept and understand why our relationships with our children may falter. Yet, when we look to the scriptures we are reminded we are born in sin (PS 51:5), live in a creation where man is born to trouble, where in fact sparks fly upward (Job 5) and creation groans. Paul wrote that even "we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly (Rom 8:22-24) as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons." It is interesting that Paul points us to adoption as the main remedy to this groaning. This supernatural adoption he speaks of brings about reconciliation and the very means to anchor hope against our groans. It's a God-authored weapon to bring peace and intimacy once and for all to His own.

The idea of being a Father can be found all over scripture. In the book of John Jesus refers to His "Father" over 100 times, more than all the synoptic gospels put together. It's clear that this relationship was of great importance, not just between Jesus and the Father but between us and the Father as well. In fact, one of Jesus' greatest desires is to put an end to this groaning man experiences (Matt 11:28) and to do so by showing us who the Father is and how we need this reconciliation.

Listen to John 13:6-9:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."  
8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"  
"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father," Jesus said. And he said this right after he revealed that Judas would betray him and that his very own beloved, Peter would deny him (John 13:21).

Why does this matter? Well, it is in this moment, that our Saviour, who is the "exact representation" (Heb 1:3) of the Father kneels down to wash the filth off of his children's feet (or should we say figuratively their hearts).  
In a beautiful moment, in a divine display of humility, Jesus reveals to us that the Father's we have known and the Father's we have been, are in no way a representation of this Father. That though we may falter with our own children and go through long valleys of irreconcilable pains, we have a hope and an anchor in an all powerful, all knowing, judicious Father who chooses to kneel and model a foreign love to us that we may model it to others also.

This Father does not fall short (Matt 5:48). This Father has a plan (Eph 2:10). This Father is glorified in His Son (John 14:13). This Father is Holy (IS 55:8) and this Father's ways are not our ways.

Though our feet are filthy, and our relationships are broken, He cleanses us. He reconciles us through the Son, that the "Spirit of Truth", that is the Spirit of God Himself (John 14:16,17), may indwell us. That we too may share in his holiness (Heb 12:10) and bear much fruit (John 15:8) as we abide in Him. To abide means to "remain in." This is a present tense imperative. In other words, as a child of God, keep abiding, daily (read His Word, Pray, think on it, etc). As we do abide, the Lord promises that we will bear much fruit and in so doing glorify the Father and prove we are his disciples.(John 15:8).

This is what a good Father wants for his children, what is truly best for them. To abide, to bear fruit, to have his joy (John 15:11) and to have it in "full." In Jesus' High Priestly prayer (John 17) it says "he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you." How did Jesus glorify the Father? By sacrificing himself on the cross.

How did the Father glorify the Son? Through the resurrection. The very resurrection that reconciles his children to himself and cleanses their "feet."

Today as you abide in Him, may your joy be full as you remember you are treasured by a merciful, loving Father that you have been fully reconciled with. A Father who has covered all your sin through the cross. He knows your burden for your own children and has shown you He is able and merciful (1Tim 2:3,4) to handle the future by cleansing those with the filthiest "feet" among us in the past.  
(1 Cor 6:9-11)

Abide in Him today,

-Written by Pete Figliozzi