

MAUNDY “HOLY” THURSDAY

Love and Service

April 1, 2021

Mark 10:45 NASB

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

I. What Is Maundy Thursday?

- A. Maundy Thursday, also known as “Holy Thursday,” is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday. Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper.
- B. Two important events are the focus of Maundy Thursday.
 - 1. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples and thereby instituted the Lord’s Supper, also called Communion (Luke 22:19-20). Some Christian churches observe a special Communion Service on Maundy Thursday in memory of Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples.
 - 2. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility (John 13:3-17). Some Christian churches observe a foot-washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday to commemorate Jesus’ washing the feet of the disciples.
- C. The word *maundy* is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* for “command” or “mandate.” The “Maundy” in “Maundy Thursday” refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should **love** and **serve** one another.
- D. Should we observe Maundy Thursday? The Bible neither commands nor forbids it. It is a good thing to remember the Last Supper and Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. It is a good thing to remember the Lord’s example of humility. However, at the same time, we should avoid ritualistic observances of holidays unless they are truly focused on God and our relationship with Him.

II. Understanding the Scriptural Principle

- A. We follow the two great commandments (Matthew 22:37-40).
 - 1. We are to love The Lord our God with all of our being and all of our strength.
 - 2. We are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
- B. We observe this command in the context of the Resurrection.

III. Demonstrating the Love of a Servant

- A. A love offering for the poor
- B. A meal honoring the Savior