

LEARNING JESUS

*Just as Jesus in his inner experience, in his vulnerability and poverty, lived selflessly for others, and indeed for the Other, so our starting point for our search to become more fully human, will be in **learning** and growing into those things that “take us outside ourselves”, and so reflect in our way of life our very human capacity to transcend ourselves. The great gift Jesus brings us is surely our discovery that, made as we are in the image of God, our hearts are already open to God.*

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:14

To hear Jesus speak was to feel clean. His word was welcoming and inviting, spoken in freedom and appealing to the freedom and dignity of the hearer. And to let him wash our feet, touch us in a vulnerable place, is to hear him say, "You matter": But he doesn't stop there. Having been washed, we are to wash one another's feet. We are gathered, only to be sent out; brought home, only to reach out.

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

The tradition speaks of the imitation of Christ or following Jesus - but more profoundly still it speaks of being found in him and he in us. Our experience becomes the crucible in which God's life and ours meet - where our poverty and weakness become the place of grace, and where the power of love is proved. I do not so much see God, as see with God's eyes; I do not so much hear God, but hear with God's ears; I do not so much feel God, but feel with Jesus the power of God.

Repent, for the reign of God is at hand.

Matthew 4:17

A change of heart, an about turn, a new way of looking at things: this is repentance. And it opens us up to the attractive, imaginative, alternative reality of the Kingdom. Repentance is genuinely prophetic: like the prophet, we see with the eyes of God.