



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: A Towel or a Title

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 3/15/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Knowing Who You Are

Devotional: In a world that constantly questions our identity and worth, Jesus provides the perfect example of someone who was completely secure in who He was. Even in His final hours, facing betrayal and crucifixion, He moved with confidence and purpose. This wasn't arrogance or pride - it was the deep peace that comes from knowing your identity is rooted in God's love and plan for your life. When we're secure in our identity as God's beloved children, we don't need to prove ourselves through achievements or recognition. We can serve others freely because our worth isn't dependent on what others think of us. Jesus knew He was the Son of God, yet He chose to wash feet. His greatness wasn't diminished by humble service - it was revealed through it. Today, you might be struggling with questions about your purpose or feeling uncertain about your future. Remember that your identity isn't found in your job title, your accomplishments, or others' opinions. It's found in being loved and chosen by God. When you know who you are in Him, you're free to serve others without fear of losing your worth.

Bible Verse: 'Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.' - John 13:3

Reflection Question: How does knowing your identity as God's beloved child change the way you approach serving others?

Quote: Jesus knew that Judas would soon betray him. Jesus knew that the Father again had given all things into his hand. Jesus knew that he had come from God and he was going back to God. He was in step with God's timing.

Prayer: Lord, help me find my security in Your love rather than in worldly recognition. Give me the confidence to serve others knowing that my worth comes from You alone.

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Day 2: The Power of Humble Service

Devotional: Picture this scene: the Creator of the universe kneeling down to wash dirty, dusty feet. In Jesus' time, this was the job of the lowest servant, yet the King of Kings chose to do it Himself. This wasn't just a nice gesture - it was a revolutionary statement about what true greatness looks like. Jesus didn't just talk about serving others; He demonstrated it in the most practical way possible. He could have given another sermon about humility, but instead He picked up a towel and got to work. His actions spoke louder than any words could. He showed us that no act of service is beneath us when it's done in love. In our achievement-oriented culture, we're taught to climb the ladder of success, to seek recognition and status. But Jesus flipped this thinking upside down. He showed that the path to true fulfillment isn't found in being served, but in serving others. When we humble ourselves to meet others' needs, we discover a joy and purpose that no promotion or title can provide.

Bible Verse: 'so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.' - John 13:4-5

Reflection Question: What opportunities for humble service are you overlooking because they seem too small or beneath your status?

Quote: He demonstrated humility. He demonstrated kindness. He demonstrated again that cleansing that we can experience. He demonstrated that love to those that other people walked by.

Prayer: Jesus, give me eyes to see opportunities to serve others today. Help me find joy in meeting needs, no matter how small they may seem.

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Day 3: Serving Even When It's Hard

Devotional: One of the most remarkable aspects of Jesus washing His disciples' feet was that He served everyone - including Judas, who would betray Him within hours, and Peter, who would deny knowing Him. Jesus knew their hearts, knew their failures, yet He served them anyway. This teaches us something profound about unconditional love and grace. We often want to serve people who appreciate us, who will thank us, or who deserve our kindness. But Jesus calls us to a higher standard. He served those who would hurt Him, showing us that true love isn't based on what we receive in return. His service wasn't conditional on their loyalty or gratitude. In your life, there are probably people who are difficult to love - maybe someone who has hurt you, criticized you, or taken advantage of your kindness. Jesus' example challenges us to serve even when it's hard, even when it's not appreciated. This doesn't mean being a doormat, but it does mean choosing love over resentment, grace over grudges. When we serve with this kind of love, we reflect the heart of Christ to a watching world.

Bible Verse: 'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.' - John 13:14-15

Reflection Question: Who in your life is difficult to serve, and how can you show them Christ's love despite the challenges?

Quote: Each foot he washed, demonstrating what we should be. He demonstrated how we are to Serve one another. In other words, we're prone to look for a title, we're prone to be recognized for what we do. But Jesus said, hey, this is how we demonstrate. We serve one another.

Prayer: Lord, help me love and serve others as You have loved and served me, even when it's difficult or unappreciated.

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Day 4: Daily Cleansing and Humility

Devotional: When Peter initially refused to let Jesus wash his feet, Jesus explained that this cleansing was necessary for fellowship with Him. This wasn't just about physical dirt - it represented the spiritual cleansing we all need. Just as our feet get dirty from walking through the world, our hearts accumulate the dust of daily life - pride, selfishness, and sin that separates us from God. Jesus' act of washing feet reminds us that we need daily cleansing, daily humility. Pride has a way of creeping back into our hearts, making us think we're better than others or that certain tasks are beneath us. But when we come to Jesus regularly, allowing Him to cleanse our hearts and humble our spirits, we stay connected to Him and ready to serve others. Humility isn't a one-time achievement - it's a daily choice. It's choosing to put others first, to admit when we're wrong, and to serve without seeking recognition. When we clothe ourselves with humility each day, we become more like Jesus and find the peace that comes from walking in step with God's heart.

Bible Verse: 'All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.' - 1 Peter 5:5

Reflection Question: What areas of pride in your life need daily cleansing, and how can you cultivate a humble heart?

Quote: This daily walk, this daily walk requires that we need that cleansing from time to time. Amen. We need that daily walk. We need that daily cleansing.

Prayer: Father, cleanse my heart from pride and help me clothe myself with humility each day. Keep me close to You through daily surrender.

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Day 5: Choosing the Towel Over the Title

Devotional: Jesus concluded His foot-washing demonstration with a powerful truth: "The greatest among you will be your servant." In a world obsessed with titles, positions, and recognition, this message is countercultural and challenging. We're naturally drawn to seek advancement, to climb higher, to be noticed and appreciated. But Jesus offers a different path to greatness. The choice between a towel and a title reveals what kind of greatness we're pursuing. Titles may bring temporary satisfaction, but they often leave us hungry for the next promotion, the next level of recognition. Service, however, brings lasting fulfillment because it connects us to God's heart and purpose. When we serve others, we participate in the very nature of Christ. Jesus didn't lose His dignity by washing feet - He revealed His true greatness. By becoming a servant, He didn't push others down but lifted them up. This is the beautiful paradox of the Kingdom of God: when we humble ourselves to serve, we discover true honor and purpose. Today, look for your towel rather than your title. Find ways to lift others up, meet practical needs, and show Christ's love through simple acts of service.

Bible Verse: 'In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' - Philippians 2:5-7

Reflection Question: In what specific ways can you choose the towel over the title in your daily relationships and responsibilities?

Quote: If we want to be great, if we want to be great in the kingdom of God, we're to search for a towel and not a title. There's a place for each of us to serve.

Prayer: Jesus, help me find my greatness in serving others rather than in seeking recognition. Give me opportunities to lift others up today.

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