

# Why Jesus Laid Aside His Robe of Honor

*Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

JOHN 13:1

Written by Bill Perkins

---

The Upper Room was filled  
with the fragrance  
of roasted lamb,  
bitter herbs,  
and warm bread.

After entering the room,  
Jesus told His disciples,  
"I have eagerly desired  
to eat this Passover with you  
before I suffer." Luke 22:15

He looked around the table,  
aware of what each man  
would do-  
and He loved them still.

With compassion,  
He knew their courage  
would falter  
before morning.

They had already bathed  
before the meal.  
Only one task remained-  
the washing  
of dusty feet.

A servant's work  
done at the door,  
never by the host,  
and certainly never  
by the honored guest.

And you may not know this about Jesus-  
His greatest acts of leadership  
were wrapped in humility.

In that situation,  
a good leader  
would buoy their faith  
by pointing  
to past miracles.

A pep talk  
before the battle.  
A reminder of the power  
they had seen  
with their own eyes-  
the moments  
that revealed His authority  
and identity-

Instead,  
He stood,  
He removed  
His outer garment-  
the heavy,  
earth-colored cloak  
of dignity-  
and laid it aside.

Now wearing His inner tunic,  
a simple  
cream-colored  
linen garment  
every man wore  
at home.

Then He tied  
a long linen towel  
around His waist-  
the servant's cloth  
used to wash feet-  
and knotted it once  
like a belt,

with its end hanging down,  
ready to dry  
the disciples' feet.

And He knelt.

The King  
of the universe-  
dressed like a servant,  
on His knees.

And then-  
the One who spoke  
galaxies  
into existence-  
washing dust  
from the toes  
of men  
who would soon run.

The One who commands  
angels-  
washing the feet  
of a betrayer,  
a denier,  
and a roomful  
of deserters.

He didn't strengthen them  
by pointing back  
but by kneeling low.

Where have my feet  
picked up dust  
today?

Each day  
dust settles  
on my soul-  
compromises,  
fears,  
frustrations.

That's why I need  
His cleansing hands.

Father, draw me  
into the Upper Room.

Let me take my place  
among the disciples  
as Jesus moves toward me  
with water  
and a towel.

I ask this  
in Jesus' name.  
Amen.