



INVITATION TO RECEIVE

TIMING: Sunday AM, before Footwashing Ritual

PURPOSE: To recap, affirm and challenge the attendees

ENERGY: From a centered place, with intentionality

MATERIALS: The Vessel of water on a small table. Vessel should contain two silver rocks and two broken halves (with red interior) and be $\frac{1}{3}$ full with water. You will need a pitcher with enough water to fill the vessel $\frac{2}{3}$ full. All of this should have been set up Saturday night and be ready to go before worship begins on Sunday morning.

PREPARATION: This transition does not have to be memorized, but IT SHOULD NOT BE READ. Practice this until you feel comfortable with the message, words, major theme – then give the transition from your heart. Take time to reflect on what is coming this morning for the attendees. Become present to the spirit of Sunday morning's processes before you get up to speak. (Bless you for doing this!)

NOTE: The content of the transition has changed. Listen to the **Audio** version for the most up to date content of this talk. Watch the **Video** version on the website to get the feel of the energy and spirit of this transition and how to pour the water into the vessel.

THE TALK

Good Morning. We realize that many of you are anticipating going home and thinking about what you will be doing this afternoon once you leave. Maybe you are missing your family. Here is an important truth: All you have is now. This afternoon does not exist. This morning you will be given several opportunities to experience God's love and blessing. We encourage you to be present to this moment and risk receiving what God has for you here and now.

Today is about receiving and opening oneself up to what God has for you in this moment. You have been emptying yourselves all weekend. Now is the time to give and receive blessing.

How many of you have a hard time receiving? Or, maybe it is difficult to give to others?

Why do you think that is? **[let a few answer]**

This goes back to the fall – to Adam and Eve. They chose to leave their dependence on God and do life on their own terms. They moved away from a vulnerable, open place to one of self-protection. We have followed in their steps. Like Adam and Eve we have covered ourselves, protecting ourselves which makes it difficult to both give and receive.

The consequence is a loss of security and safety to yield to others to receive or to give ourselves wholeheartedly to serve. It can be challenging to give or to receive. To bless or be blessed. Both are acts of vulnerability. We experience fear, insecurity, shame and so we are hindered in our capacity to live from our truest identity in Christ - which looks like Him.

Jesus wholeheartedly did both. In humility, he received the blessing of a prostitute washing his feet. And, He took on the role of a servant as he blessed his disciples.

This morning we are going to give you a couple of opportunities to do both – to give and to receive.

[Point to the vessel of water]

You have been emptying yourselves all weekend long. Most of you have been carrying rocks – false selves, wounds, messages – for many years and this weekend you are emptying yourselves. Now is the time to be filled.

[Start slowly pouring the water into the vessel as you speak the next three sentences]

- Allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with the presence of God for you – taking in His love.
- His presence is here to give you everything you long for – safety, security, acceptance, purpose, strength, love....Open up and receive.
- Being filled is the answer to every reason you came to this weekend.
Being filled with the presence of God will give you everything you long for.
- Receive. Surrender to Love today – God’s love in you for your sisters and His love present for you.

You will be given opportunities to both give and receive blessing today. Pay attention to any resistance to doing either. Whether it is shame, self-judgment, fear of intimacy or being vulnerable. We encourage you to not give in to the resistance, but to choose to go to the edge and risk going to another level of receiving the love of God – as it is offered. Choose to step into an open position of being filled and one of giving from the presence of God within you.

We are asking you to take a risk this morning and say, “I’m going to take it in. I’m just going to take it in, take as much as I can, and be filled with the presence of God and His truth for me.”

When you have an opportunity to bless your sisters, dive in – just like Jesus. Filled with God’s humble presence, allow Christ to flow through you – from your heart.

[Prayer] *“Father come, we thank you so much for this way of love, and I pray for your sons/daughters now that they would make a choice and say yes to the blessing you have for them. In Jesus name, amen.”*