

**Father Brad Neely**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
**Sts Peter & Paul: April 01, 2010**  
**1Cor 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-15:**

One of the friends I made at the seminary used to manage a theatre-plex in Phoenix. Fr. Bob loves movies, and it seemed as though this job before priesthood was perfectly suited to him. He mentioned, however, the career downsides, namely---whenever the bathrooms backed up during a busy Friday or Saturday night, [and this was not a rare occasion], everyone became *invisible*, and he was the one holding the bag.

Ideally, with responsibility comes *servant-hood*. Maybe on first thought we wouldn't think servant-hood is "ideal," so our posture would be: "I hire people to unplug bathrooms." But servant-hood **is** "ideal" in the sense of emulating Christ. I've mentioned before that to wash the feet of a guest at the time of Jesus was a slave's job--- thus the knee-jerk reaction of Peter saying, "you will *never* wash my feet!" But Jesus is making a specific point. He washes the daily dust and grime of the desert off the feet of the apostles to give them, as he says, "*a model to follow. . . . so that as I have done for you, you should also do.*" Jesus does this at the Passover meal,

re-presented by the Jews each year to commemorate their escape from the 10<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt, and the exodus event following that freed them from slavery.

Jesus, at this time in Jerusalem, takes the Passover to its fullest measure. Instead of the lamb that was slaughtered and consumed in Egypt--- with its blood marking the homes that the Angel of Death would "Passover," Jesus offers Himself as the sacrificed lamb--- the Lamb of God--- whose blood saves us from eternal death.

Who is this Lamb of God?  
He is the servant of his heavenly Father.  
He is the servant of his apostles.  
He is the servant of all of us.  
As part of this occasion tonight, we have the opportunity to check the status of our own servant-hood, which Jesus demonstrated for us. A servant is a person in the service of another. Is servant-hood part of our daily consciousness? Do we give ourselves in service to others even beyond those whom we know and like? As Jesus gave himself for all people--- all nations--- do we emulate the "other-centeredness" that Jesus models in the Gospel?