

Dan Price

This week is a special week for both Jews and Christians in Humboldt and throughout the world. Today is called Maundy Thursday by Christians and this week begins Passover for Jews: mostly celebrated on Friday at sundown, ~~and for also Saturday.~~

Maundy Thursday has various names: sometimes it's called Holy Thursday, Jueves Santo <sup>(etc)</sup> ~~(in Spanish)~~, ~~and~~. Passover Seder also is known as The Feast of Unleavened Bread and it celebrates two events simultaneously that represent ~~both~~ nature and grace. First, there is the celebration of springtime. Spring is here, even though in Humboldt Old man winter seems not to know about it; but, the arrival of spring is always a good thing. With spring comes longer days, the bright green sprouts of seeds from soil and flowers from ~~trees and gardens.~~ <sup>the place many</sup> It's enough to make you happy: and it does—at least, it *should*.

Passover also celebrates the deliverance from slavery of the Children of Israel <sup>about</sup> ~~nearly~~ 3,000 years ago. You may remember they had been enslaved by the Egyptian Pharaoh and forced into hard labor. The children of Israel cried out to God and he delivered them by many mighty miracles, ~~and the hand of Moses.~~ Passover is thus a time to celebrate springtime, remember Jewish deliverance from tyranny and renew the hope that all people will one day free themselves from the yoke of oppression. This past year there have been many people-uprisings in our world, and especially in the Middle East, seeking freedom from political oppression. Some have been more successful than others and we can only hope that the ~~bloody~~ <sup>bloody</sup> protests and repression in Syria will have an immediate end and just outcome.

Back to Maundy Thursday: most scholars agree that the English word Maundy is derived through Middle English from the Latin 'mandatum', the first word of the phrase, "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you"); this statement was first uttered by Jesus and recorded in the Gospel of John 13:34. Jesus made this statement in order to explain to the disciples the significance of his action of washing their feet. Tonight many will observe the ceremony, complete with the ~~washing of the feet~~ <sup>foot washing</sup> during which a priest or pastor--representing Christ--~~occasionally~~ washes the feet of others. Why? Foot washing was normally done by the lowest servant in the house. But since there had been no servant at Jesus' Passover meal 2,000 years ago, the disciples had been arguing about who should wipe the dirt, grime and dust off ~~each others'~~ <sup>each others'</sup> ~~their~~ feet.... Jesus grabbed the towel and basin and washed 24 stinking feet, setting for them a startling example of servant leadership.

He called this a 'new commandment' but it is actually a very old commandment to love your neighbor ~~as yourself~~ ... the novelty was that Jesus himself set an example how to love.

Love by doing what I do; love by being willing stoop and wash ~~each other's~~ <sup>each other's</sup> feet. Today love has become mostly a star spangled emotion of mutual ~~attraction.~~ <sup>commandment</sup> We would do well to remember that love is more often stooping to serve others in ~~the~~ every day events and interactions. Those who choose this path are truly free.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment.