What was on Jesus' mind at the last supper? John's gospel tells us very directly. "Jesus , conscious that He has come from God and he was returning to God and that the Father had put everything into his power"

In this evening's gospel, Jesus moves from the transcendent order to the physical order
He brings heaven to earth
Jesus consciousness is heaven!
He has come from God … and is returning to God

He gets up from the table (heavenly reality)
He is about to bring a heavenly reality down to earth.
Takes off his outer garment: he is about to reveal the Truth

He reveals his "inside".
Reveal the inside through the outside.
Off comes the robe: revelation

Have you ever looked closely at a statue of the Sacred Heart?
His two hands act as scalpels;
Stone lines as rays of revelation;
In the statue of the Sacred Heart we get to see the inside of another person not mediated by the outside
Parents had both Sacred heart of Jesus and Mary: see the love of Jesus & Mary; it <u>has</u> to come out

But in today's gospel, Jesus must show on the outside what is happening in the inside
He takes a towel; wraps it around his waist;
Symbol of what he is going to do.
And what is he going to do? He is going to wash and dry feet.

What didn't you say in the story; many things left unsaid
But what he does is key: **Pouring**: a greater energy

Wash feet and drys with towel around his waist

In Jesus' day, feet symbolized people's journey of life:
people **walked** to get around
It is said, If you want to know how old people are doing: check their feet.
The feet are a symbol of the wear and tear of life
Jesus refreshes life. He has come to wash feet. I have come that you might have life, and have it to the full.

He does not only do foot-washing but also does foot-drying:
Now they are ready to go again.
He is refreshment is the energy to carry on with life

Jesus is getting into the world of towels and water and feet:
the very every day issues of life
Jesus' journey into action is always very practical and particular

His naked action of washing feet expresses his inner consciousness.
It cannot be totally predetermined
His spirituality merges with his ethics. And isn't that the way with us?
The action our inner consciousness will express itself very differently towards a 4 year old than a 9 year old, or to someone in pain rathe than with someone who is happy.

We are in a state of love alertness
We need to stay in touch with your inner consciousness;
it acts as a compass and directs us to act rightly.

Then we lose it;
then we need to go back inside and go out in activity;
then you lose it and you go back inside and once again go out.
Sometime you have to go inside for a long time;

you can get lost in the inside or outside.
Jesus models for us: we need to be conscious that we come from God and we are going to God and that the Father has put all things in our hands.

The footwashing episode does not tell us a thing about the feet (condition of feet)
Rather it tells us how Jesus remained within as he goes without.

(Pause)

Jesus meets failure at his attempt to teach.

He comes to Peter
Lord you will <u>never</u> wash my feet! No!
What is getting in Peter's way? His God imagery.
In Peter's vision of things, he should be washing Jesus' feet!
For Peter, God is someone who should be worshipped and sacrificed <u>to.</u>
But in Jesus' consciousness, God is the one who is sacrificing his life <u>for</u> others
God is Divine love: AGAPE
"Peter, you do not understand, but you will understand later."

You will never wash my feet!
Our default God images are real strong in us.
There is a lot of stuff in us which reveals our false images of God.

Jesus replies to Peter and to us, "If I do not wash your feet you can have no place with me
Peter, I cannot be your fantasy.

<u>I wash feet</u>
<u>That's what I do! That's who I am!</u>

I don't do everything you want me to do.

I am not a projection of your desire for power.
I wash feet; that is what I do.
That is all I can do for you.

And by the way, I am inviting you to be my disciples by washing each other's feet in my name.

(*key ideas from this homily came from a talk given by John Shea at the Gerald Martin Conference in Detroit Michigan in August, 2010.*)
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