Ka Mōhai Aloha

Lent 8 (Good Friday) by Keʻala Kwan, Director, Hui ʻIke Hawaiʻi, Hoʻokahua – Cultural Vibrancy Group

Heluhelu Baibala/Scripture Reading – Ioane 13:14-17

14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.- John 13:14-17

Manaʻo

Wow, can you imagine your kumu washing your feet? Seems a bit unusual, yes? Historically, during Jesus’ time, it was the duty of slaves to wash the dusty feet of their masters. And yet, this is exactly what Jesus, the master, did for his disciples, who were his haumāna. He was their kumu, but with complete haʻahaʻa (humility), and unconditional aloha, he lovingly washed the feet of each of his twelve disciples. Perhaps He did this because he knew that this was to be one of His last acts of aloha before his crucifixion and earthly passing. His death was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Woven into this story are precious and important life-lessons for each of us. Because Jesus demonstrates, through His actions in this story, that He desires us to be servant leaders. Such a leader strives always to be humble and to do everything with a naʻau aloha (loving spirit). To be a good servant leader, we must place the needs of others above our own. Just as Jesus did throughout His entire life. And imagine, Jesus could have easily asked any of his disciples to wash His feet, and they would have immediately done so. But instead, He humbled himself and put their needs above his own.

We have only to look to our Hawaiian aliʻi for wonderful examples in our own history of excellent servant leaders, leaders who put the needs of their people first. Kamehameha IV, Alexander Liholiho, and Queen Emma, established the Queen’s Hospital to provide health care services to improve the well-being of their people. The Lunalilo Trust was created by King Charles Lunalilo, to mālama his people, especially the precious kūpuna, the elderly. Queen Liliʻuokalani focused her kōkua on the ʻōpio, youth, by creating the Queen Liliʻuokalani Trust dedicated to the welfare of orphan and destitute children. And the Kamehameha Schools was established by Ke Aliʻi Pauahi, who knew that education was the key to a vibrant Lāhui (Hawaiian Nation).
So as we prepare to celebrate Easter with our ‘ohana, let us remember to be ha‘aha’a, humble, and thankful for all the many blessings that ke Akua provides. And let us strive to be servant leaders, by helping others through our actions and aloha.

Nā nīnau e noʻonoʻo ai/Questions to ponder
• Ha‘aha’a, means to be humble. Can you think of times when you have behaved in a ha‘aha’a manner?
• Servant leadership means putting the needs of others above our own needs. Think of typical situations in your own life – in your ‘ohana, at school, at church, in organizations such as sports teams - where you might demonstrate servant leadership through your actions.

Pule
E ke Akua mana loa, mahalo a nui for sacrificing Your one and only beloved Son Jesus Christ for our sins. We ask that you forgive us for our shortcomings and help us to be humble in forgiving others. Help us too, to have humility in serving others by placing their needs above our own. Ma ka inoa o Kāu Keiki hiwahiwa ‘o lesū Kristo. ‘Āmene.

Keiki Activity
• Show your creativity by composing a poem or song, making a visual etc. that expresses ha‘aha’a or servant leadership.
• Talk story about ha‘aha’a and serving others, with your parents, grandparents, and others. Ask them for their mana‘o and examples of these in their lives.
• Use a simple Circle Map on a sheet of paper, with your name and the word “ha‘aha’a” in the middle. Then think of examples of your ha‘aha’a actions, and write a couple of words to capture each example, in the larger, outer circle that surrounds your name.

Suggested Hīmeni Haipule:
• “Ekolu Mea Nui”, No. 208 Nā Hīmeni o Ka ‘Ekalesia
  ‘Ekolu mea nui There are three important virtues
  Ma ka honua On earth
  ‘O ka mana‘o ‘i‘o Faith
  Ka mana‘olana Hope
  A me ke aloha And love
  Ke aloha kā i ‘oi a’e Love being the greatest of all
  Pōmaika‘i nā mea a pau All are blessed
  Pōmaika‘i nā mea a pau All are blessed
E Hele Mai
E hele mai
Kākou a pau
E ‘ike i ka Haku iā Iesū
Ka Ho‘ōla o ke ao nei
Nona nō nā mea a pau
Nona nō nā mea a pau

Come
One and all
To see the Lord Jesus
The Savior of the world
All things are of Him
All things are of Him