

THE TOWEL

Just a towel. A piece of heavy fabric used to wipe, clean, absorb. Consider its myriad of uses in addition to kitchen and bath. For example, the mother who wipes the tears of the little child to soothe physical and emotional hurt; the physician who binds the wound of a bleeding patient; the woman in her home, wiping her hands as she moves from task to task; the weary traveler who wipes his sweated brow. Others include the manager of a boxer who “throws in the towel” to save the life of his protege, or the young man wiping the grease off his hands as he fixes the old jalopy.

Notwithstanding all of the above, perhaps the most significant use of the towel occurred about two thousand years ago when our loving Brother took an ordinary towel in His hands and dried the feet of His disciples only hours before His crucifixion.

*He who would be Chief Among You
by Carol Lynn Pearson*

*And he rose from supper.
Poured water in a basin.
And washed the disciples feet.*

*Those hands. Hardened by the heat
Of a desert sun, comfortable with cutting trees
And turning them to tables in Joseph's shop-
Those hands that with a wave could stop
The troubled sea, could touch a leper clean
Or triumphantly turn death away
From the loved daughter on Lazarus' couch-
Those hands, that could gesture
The heavens open
Poured water in a basin.
And washed the disciples feet.*

*The lesson lay unlearned,
But to a few,
Who trust the paradox and hear the call:*

*“He who would be chief among you,
Let him be the servant of all.”*

The towel. An everyday piece of cloth has deep symbolic meaning when seen in the hands of the Savior. So, in the true spirit of the holidays and always, take this towel, knowing it is given with love, and do works of goodness with it. As the Savior worked goodness with His so many years ago.