Our Most Vulnerable Part

Ernest Hemingway said, “A cat has absolute emotional honesty…” And he was right! Cats are wonderful and exceptional little beings that touch the hearts of their owners or anyone with the propensity to love the fickle. They have an inherent ability to communicate honestly, unlike most people. Cats use body language to show what they’re feeling and what they’re thinking when in contact with one another. For example, ears down and tail moving like Morse code is a sign they are unhappy or nervous. But one behavior, which puts a cat in the most vulnerable position possible, is when they express submission in a hierarchy and show their stomach. They lower their ears, avoid eye contact, and roll over to show their softest, most tender part on their little body. Their most vital organs are located in their underbelly, and any threat to that area is fatal.

Mary of Bethany physically communicated her emotions for Jesus by sitting at His feet. She washed His feet with her hair without inhibitions, and Jesus honored her by saying, “…she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always” (John 12:7-8). Mary simply expressed the submission that was already in her heart. She showed her most vulnerable side—trust. She believed every word He said, and His words alone were enough for her to wholly rely on Him, even in the darkest of moments. Have you ever trusted someone, only to be let down, even crushed because they didn’t do what they said they would? It doesn’t take long to construct a moat around our hearts after being let down time and time again. But Jesus’ words are different. His love is different. Nothing about Him will fail our fragile hearts, but it’s a frightening, vulnerable thing to step out and do, and any more damage to our fragile hearts, we feel, could be fatal.

Do our actions, both physically and spiritually, show complete submission to Christ? Do we get on our knees without inhibitions before God? Are we holding back what we feel too valuable to give? According to an online source, “…a cat may strike a submissive pose to show you how safe they feel. Rolling onto her back and exposing her tummy to be rubbed is showing you not only that she loves you rubbing her belly, but also that she trusts you sufficiently to be vulnerable in front of you.” Let’s get to a place where we feel so safe in the presence of Jesus that we show Him our most vulnerable parts.

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