

Serving Others

Core help

Goals: As Christians we want to grow hearts of service towards others, not out of obligation, but out of compassion. How can we serve others? Where is God calling you to serve others right where you're at or to even step out further than your immediate sphere?

Openers:

- Share about someone you think is a "real servant" -what did they do or what characteristics would you use to describe them?
- What do you think is one of the greatest acts of service you've done?
- What do you imagine the greatest act of service ever to be?

Scripture:

John 13:3-17 (NIV) -Jesus washing the disciples feet

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Digging Deeper:

Observations

- What does Jesus literally do for each of His disciples? What was the process like?
[can make flow chart]
- Who responds to Jesus' action and what is the conclusion of their exchange?

- What does Jesus ask them at the end? Why is this significant?
- What does Jesus state will be the result for those who follow His example?

Interpretations

- What do you think motivated Jesus' act of service in this passage? (i.e. *love? compassion? obligation? need?*)
- Why do you think Peter didn't first want to be served by Jesus? What do you think are various responses to someone being served in a significant way?
- What do you think is the significance of Jesus serving all twelve disciples in tandem with his statement in verses 10-11? (i.e. *serves non-appreciative & undeserving enemies*)
- How does Jesus use His current situation to serve those around Him? How does He go beyond even His normal sphere to radically serve others?
- What position does Jesus leave His followers to assume? Do you think there are any alternatives roles in His mind?

Applications

- Do a self-inventory -compare your 'greatest act of service' to that of Jesus and the characteristics that define your service to His. What do you need to change, adapt, or do to better follow His example and call to serve as He has served us?
- Brainstorm 3 ways you can creatively serve (1) your Core, (2) a fellow student, and (3) someone outside your immediate sphere this week. Write them down and pray with a partner to do it.
- Identify one person whom you really don't want to serve. How can you serve them?

Prayer

- Pray in pairs thanking God for His service to us and for hearts to serve others.