

**SERIES: MISSION 2022**  
**SERMON:THE HEART OF A SERVANT**  
**3-20-22**

**REVIEW OF MISSION 2022:**

***John 13:35 (NLT) So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”***

**LOVE BEGINS IN THE CHURCH - LOVE BEGINS HERE.  
BEFORE WE CAN EVER LOVE THE WORLD, WE HAVE TO LEARN TO  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**WHEN WE LOVE EACH OTHER WE SHOW THE WORLD THAT JESUS IS  
REAL.**

***1 John 3:18 (NLT) Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.***

**THE HEART OF A SERVANT**

**OPENER:**

***John 13:1-17 (NLT) Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. <sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.***

***<sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”***

***<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”***

***<sup>8</sup> “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”***

***Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.”***

***<sup>9</sup> Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”***

***10 Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." 11 For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."***

***12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.***

(Explain scripture)

When Jesus was on this earth people walked everywhere on dusty roads, and it was common to have your feet washed before sitting down to share in a meal. It wasn't a very unpleasant task. It was for slaves or servants. The lowliest servant of the house washed guest's feet. For Jesus to do this was scandalous.

This time together.....

- FOR JESUS WAS A DISPLAY OF HIS HUMILITY AND SERVANTHOOD
- FOR THE DISCIPLES IT WAS A CONFRONTATION OF THEIR ATTITUDE
- FOR US IT IS SYMBOLIC OF OUR ROLE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

### **1. OUR PRIDE KEEPS US FROM SERVING**

***Vs. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.***

(Explain scripture)

Since there was no one present to wash their feet it never occurred to the disciples to wash one another's feet. It was beneath their dignity. They probably thought. "When we rented this room they should have provided a servant to wash our feet." "Or how come Jesus didn't take care of that for this special meal?"

We do this too. We say.....

- > It's not my job. That's someone else's job.
- > Why isn't there someone here to take care of that?
- > I'm not called to that.

**WE ARE SO WRAPPED UP WITHIN OURSELVES WE  
ARE UNWILLING TO MEET THE NEED.**

**PRIDE IS OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM.  
PRIDE BLINDS US - PRIDE IMPRISONS US.  
WE NEED TO REMOVE OUR PRIDE TO SEE THE NEED.**

***Philippians 2:3-7 (NLT) Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. <sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.***

**CHRIST GAVE UP HIS RIGHTS AND CAME TO US NOT  
AS A RULER BUT A SERVANT.  
BY WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET, JESUS DEMONSTRATED THAT  
TRUE GREATNESS IS NOT ABOUT POSITION BUT ATTITUDE.**

**JUST AS JESUS GOT UP FROM SITTING WE NEED TO GET UP OUT OF  
OUR PRIDE AND MEET THE NEED.**

**JUST AS CHRIST REMOVED HIS ROBE. WE MUST REMOVE THE PRIDE  
THAT KEEPS US BOUND  
FROM SERVING OTHERS.**

- **Are you afraid of what others might think of you if you reached out to serve someone?**
- **Do you fear failing or doing something wrong or not as good as someone else.... So you don't choose to serve?**
- **Are there people you avoid serving in order to help others ?**
- **Do you complain in your heart or to those closest to you after you have served at great cost?**
- **Are you quick to find fault with others and the church and verbalize those thoughts to others instead of offering to help?**
- **Are you sitting here right now thinking that these questions apply to someone I know? Feeling pretty good that none of these things really apply to you?**

***Romans 12:3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.***

## **2. OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO SERVE CAN HINDER GOD'S WILL**

We have this false ideology that God's will, will be done no matter what we do. We say things like, "God doesn't need your money." Yes, in reality God doesn't need your money. He could miraculously manifest a roll of \$100 bills. But he chooses to use your money. God doesn't need your time. He is not bound by time. He can do the impossible in a moment. But He asks us to give our time to Him. No, God doesn't 'NEED' anything.

**BUT THE PRIMARY WAY THAT GOD WORKS HIS WILL IN THIS EARTH IS THROUGH PEOPLE.**

**HE CHOOSES US AS AGENTS TO DO HIS WILL.**

**MINISTRY TAKES PEOPLE.**

**THERE ARE THINGS THAT ARE NOT BEING DONE FOR THE KINGDOM BECAUSE WE ARE NOT WILLING TO DO THEM.**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Think about this, if Jesus hadn't got up from the table and began to wash the disciples feet they would have stayed dirty.

The truth is that when we are not willing to serve we can:

- > Delay God's timing,
- > Hinder God's will
- > Miss out on a divine opportunity
- > We can overburden our other brothers and sisters in Christ
- > And we can grieve the Holy Spirit.

### **EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE:**

- > **MOSES:** Moses became the human agent of God's intervention in the exodus deliverance of the suffering Hebrews. And Moses became the vehicle through whom God gave His Covenant Law.
- > **JOSEPH:** God spared his life. Put his favor and grace upon him and rose him up to great authority in Egypt so that he would gather grain to feed God's people.

- > **MARY:** In her answer of “Let it be done she became the vehicle God used to birth deliverance and salvation to the world
- > **PAUL:** After his encounter with the Lord he surrendered his life to be used in God’s service. Most of the New Testament we have was written with his hand as the Holy Spirit moved on him.

**NOTE:**

- 20/80 rule in churches. 20% do 80% of the work.
- 20% give
- 20% serve
- 20% do the work
- 20% are faithful

We make all sorts of rational explanations for not serving:

- >I don’t have time.
- >I don’t know what I would do.
- >I don’t have any special skills to contribute.
- >They don’t need me.

**GOD DIDN’T ASK 20% TO SERVE.  
HE ASKS ALL OF US TO HELP ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL.**

**3. SERVING ONE ANOTHER CONFRONTS OUR FLESH**

*Vs. 6.....When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”*

*<sup>8</sup> “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!”*

**THE DISCIPLES WERE STUNNED AND UNCOMFORTABLE WITH WITH  
JESUS’ ACTIONS.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

When someone does something for us out of true humility and love it makes us very uncomfortable because it stuns our flesh.

We feel vulnerable, unguarded, transparent. We don’t like it.

- > Someone offers to help watch our children.
- > Someone gives us some money or shows up at our door with groceries.
- > Someone offers to pay for our meal.
- > A friend offers to come and help you do repairs on your house.

**BUT WHAT IF INSTEAD OF SAYING “NO” BECAUSE WE ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WE COULD SAY, “YES”!  
SAY “YES” TO SERVE SOMEONE AND SAY “YES” TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO SERVE YOU!**

**WHEN WE SERVE ONE ANOTHER IT HUMBLER OUR HEART AS WELL AS THE ONE WE ARE SERVING.**

**TRUE HUMILITY IS THE ABILITY TO SET YOURSELF ASIDE AND SERVE SOMEONE.**

**4. SERVING ONE ANOTHER RELEASES THE SPIRIT**

***Vs. 8-9.....Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me.***

***Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”***

***<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” <sup>11</sup> For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”***

**JESUS WAS SAYING SALVATION IS A ONE TIME CLEANSING, BUT WALKING IN THIS SIN CURSED WORLD WILL REQUIRE THE CONTINUAL CLEANSING OF YOUR HEART.**

**Are we humble enough to help a brother or sister wash off the dirt of sin that they have picked up as they walk in this world?**

***Galatians 6:1-3 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. <sup>2</sup> Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.***

**AS WE SERVE EACH OTHER IT RELEASES THE CLEANSING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
THE WASHING WATERS OF THE SPIRIT ARE RELEASED TO CLEANSE OUR SOULS.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Are you too dignified to rescue a brother or sister caught in sin?  
It takes a lowly position.  
Washing dirty feet.

**5. SERVING ONE ANOTHER GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES TO WITNESS MIRACLES.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

Many many times before the great miracles that are recorded that Jesus did in the New Testament, it says His heart was moved with compassion.

I THINK WE WOULD SEE MORE MIRACLES IF WE MOVED ON OUR  
COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.  
INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON OUR FAITH MAYBE WE NEED TO FOCUS ON  
OUR LOVE AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER.

**6. SERVING ONE ANOTHER BRINGS BLESSING ON OUR LIFE**

**CLOSING:**

*(NLT) 20:20-21 Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. <sup>21</sup> “What is your request?” he asked.*

*She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.”*

*Vs. 24-26 When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

WE SAY TO JESUS, “HOW DO I GET TO FIRST PLACE?” HE SAYS, “BY  
BEING LAST.”

WE SAY, “HOW DO I LEAD?” HE SAYS, “BY FOLLOWING.”

**TRUE GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM IS ATTAINED BY HAVING A  
SERVANT'S HEART.**

**-- BODY MINISTRY!**