

Serve to Bless
John 13:1-17

What if you knew you only had 2 days to live? What would you do during those 2 days? Do you have a bucket list? What is on there? Who would you do these things with? Would it look like Tim McGraw's list? You know, go skydiving, Rocky Mountain climbing, go 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu? I think going over Niagara Falls in a barrel would be cool. Maybe wrestle a crocodile? Those two bucket list items sound more like what would actually be the reason for your death! Maybe there is a band you want to see live, a specific country to visit, an activity you have always wanted to try, A relationship to make right. LET ME ASK YOU THIS: is your bucket list about the items on the list or who you spend time doing them with? I don't know what I would do. I know who I would want to do them with though. Those I love the most! **We see in this passage that when Jesus realizes His time had come and he was about to GET to go home to be with HIS Father He spent his last moments eating with those He loved the most showing his disciples how much he loved them and that he came to serve them.** And He did it by doing something that the Jewish culture thought was beneath the lowest of Jews, **washing feet... and encourages them to do them same.**

Big idea: **When we live in God's love what will overflow is love and service to those around us.** The part of the gospel story wheel we are spending the second week on is "serving to bless". **We defined "to bless" as a gift that brings us into the very presence of God.**

What I want to look at with you today is What Jesus did at this
Dustin talked about living in God's love. So today we see Jesus showing that love to his disciples. We will look at not necessarily in this order but,
Why, how, and who Jesus served and why, how, and who we should serve.

We will start with WHY? Why is the most important

Why? SIMPLY- **Jesus served the disciples because Jesus is the good and true Servant.** It's His character.

(John 13:1-3 ESV)

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, **having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.** During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God,

He FINISHED STRONG- so we can too!

Jesus has loved God the father as a part of the communion of the trinity for an eternity past.

That love results in Jesus' passion to serve the Father by leaving heaven to come to earth to redeem a fallen broken sinful world. Jesus is Serving His disciples because he ultimately loves His father and finds joy in serving Him! **GETTING THE ORDER RIGHT!**

Illus. LGLP. We watched videos that talked about how people love each other. Went something like this. Brandon loves baseball. Angie loves Brandon. Therefore Angie loves baseball. Angie doesn't love baseball without loving me. She loves it because she loves me and wants to enjoy what I enjoy. We were at the game that Micheal Wacha came one out from a no hitter. **The atmosphere electric we high fived after every out. She has learned to love baseball because of her love for me!** God loves people. Jesus loves God the father. Therefore Jesus loves People.. Without a merciful father we are not very lovely. Look at the state this world is in. We were created in God's image but at the fall in Genesis 3 we broke! Sin has condemned us, but because of God's love for us Jesus came to die for you and me. **This is good news. There is nothing we can do to lose Christ's love. It comes out of a perfect love for His Father therefore He loves us perfectly as his followers.**

1. Why- **It was His time.** Jesus knew the plan for redemption by his death was going to be when Judas was going to betray Him and in verse 2 and 3 Jesus knows that the devil had already put it in Judas' heart. **Good news bad news- bad news Jesus was about to endure a horrendous amount of torture and being murdered on the cross. Good news he was paying for our sin...more importantly Jesus and his father were about to be reunited.** Imagine how excited he would be to be going home! We fear death because this is the only home we have known but where we are going if we know Jesus will be infinitely better than this place and Jesus knows this better than anyone having spent an eternity with his father in heaven **It is Jesus Joy to honor God!**
2. Why- To show once again how much He loved his disciples. Verse **1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. His bucket list was about the people he got to accomplish the items on the list with. That includes us!**
3. **Why-** So that you and I would know the love of the Father through how He serves us.
4. **Why-** As a foreshadowing of the redemption he would be by laying down his life on the cross.
5. **Why-** SO we would follow his example and serve each other selflessly out of living in his love for us.

(John 13:4-9 ESV)

[4] rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. [6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

This is How He served- he Laid down his robes. And humbled himself and WASHED the disciples feet. We talk about the **condescension of Jesus.** This is a great example. **The King**

of Kings, lord of Lords. Can imagine any other king doing this? NO KINGS HAVE SERVANTS TO DO THAT FOR THEM!

Jewish custom was that footwashing was regarded so lowly a task that it could not be required of a Hebrew slave. FEET WERE DISGUSTING- dirtiest part of the body

Grocery store feet-- Growing up my brother and sister and I never wore shoes. Back then you could go into grocery stores barefooted and my parents allowed us to. Have you ever heard of the term “grocery store feet”? well we had them mastered. We got to where it was a game to see how disgustingly gross the bottoms of our feet could get! We would show them off when we got back to the car. Since we didn’t wear seatbelts either. **LOOK AT MY FEET!** Literally charcoal black- pieces of gum and an old skittle stuck to it. Imagine the filth of 12 men who walked everywhere they went in sandals. Imagine the sweaty grossness collecting mud and germs and what not. And Jesus was bending down humbling himself to cleanse the feet of the men he loved the most, his disciples **CAN YOU FEEL PETER’S PAIN IN NOT WANTING JESUS TO TOUCH HIS NASTY FEET?**

One commentator writes that maybe in a sign of exceptional love, a disciple would wash a master’s feet. Well this was THE MASTER and He was washing their feet. How would you feel?

Illus- **Water and basin on stage-**What if I were to walk down off this stage with a basin of water and with a towel wrapped around my arm and walk to you taking your shoe off and begin to wash your feet. I imagine there are a few of you thinking “if he does I am out of here! No way he is going to do that!” and I am nobody! **Imagine the disciples horror as they watch Jesus do something SO UNWORTHY!**

>Peter’s response- Verse- You will never wash my feet. To **WASH ALL OF ME-** just got awkward. I can see other disciples rolling their eyes. “Peter, please just stop talking.”

THIS IS THE HOW- foreshadowing what was about to happen.

1. **Laid down his robe-** as he would when he went to the cross as he laid down his life so he could lift us up through the forgiveness of our sins and offering us salvation because **of the sacrifice of His life.**
2. Cleansed us through his act. As he was washing their feet I can see him looking at each one of them saying this is how much I love you. I will clean more than your feet very soon on the cross. Tells peter in Verse 8 if I do not wash you, you have no share with me. **If You haven’t experienced the cleansing of Jesus through the spilling of his blood ON THE CROSS you have no share with Him, but if you have you are COMPLETELY clean. Let that sink in. Completely clean. HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS? STOP WAIT-you can NOW**
3. **He told them what he was doing.** Told them they were right to call him teacher and Lord. Affirmed their commitment to the lord. Told them that even though they didn’t understand what was happening that they would very soon. **He was doing what he had been doing everyday with these guys. Loving them by serving them. LITERALLY BRINGING THEM INTO HIS PRESENCE**
4. By loving them to the end. Verse 1 Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **Jesus had great affection for those He loved and even though**

he was about to go home He wanted His best friends to know how much he loved them so they would spread his love to the ends of the earth. To you and to me.

This speaks of how Good Jesus is. Illus. DAD'S LAST DAY-July 16 this year was the last day I got to spend with my dad. It was an awesome day. It was a graduation party for my nephew, Austin. Most of my family was there. We prayed for my nephew and a few of us shared stories and told him we loved him. My dad went last. I watched my dad as he looked at Austin with tears of pride and love and told him how much he loved him. **I know if my dad knew that that was the last time he had the chance to tell us he loved us he would of sat down with me and said "Brandon, I won't be here with you tomorrow and I just wanted to tell you how much I have loved you and how much I DO LOVE You. I love being your dad. Make sure You, Ryan and Amber Take care of your mom, and take heart you will see me again."** I would have loved that!!! **WELL JESUS IS DOING JUST THAT! HE went and sat back down at the table he had been eating with his disciples at and looks at each of them and says I just wanted to show you yet again how much I love you. Now having experienced my love go and love each other and the world SO THEY can know my love! He is reminding us that we have a loving heavenly father that loves being our father and sent Jesus so we could experience His love that results in us LOVING and SERVING WELL.**

5. **So again lets look at Who** Jesus is serving. **His Disciples-** He brings his disciples, all twelve of them together to celebrate for his last Passover. A meal that all along was pointing to the very person they were eating with. Imagine that Eating together. Jesus was the lamb of God sent to be the pure, perfect sacrifice for our sins.
6. **Who-**Serving the 12 people he was closest to. The 12 he had called personally to be the ones he would use to change the world. The men he fished with, ate most with, lived together with. **The men he loved to the very end. The twelve men who loved him the most in the world....well 11 of them.**
7. **Who-** He served Judas. WHAT??? Verse 2-**During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper.**
8. Then in verse 10 Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." **For he knew who was to betray him;** that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."
9. Jesus- Jesus served the very one who would turn him over to be murdered the same as the 11 disciples. The one who would **betray** Him. On one of his last days on earth he still served those who hated him. **Imagine not only knowing you were going to die in the next days but knowing your murderer was in the same room (one who was supposed to be one of your closest friends who thinks his betrayal is a secret) and still serving him AS YOU would those who love YOU most?**
10. This is where we come to the end of our ability to serve to bless and must depend on living in his love to be able to follow his example.

Remember we are talking about speaking of Jesus. The Gospel Story chart. Serving to bless. **We will be able to serve to bless when we live in His love and he allows us to serve selflessly, even to our enemies.**

So Jesus loved his own to the very end. He served because he is the perfect Servant, glorifying His Father. **And Still is serving you today** (Romans 8:34-35 ESV)

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

So why should WE serve the world selflessly living in His Love?

Well here is why not. And if you are like me you need to be reminded of reasons not to serve as much as reasons to serve sometimes

1. We shouldn't serve because you think it will give you **better standing with God.** Jesus did that! It is not Jesus Plus Serving that makes us right with God. It is Jesus Plus nothing. OR
2. Out of some **Christian Karma-** An Idea that I will serve to get back some good thing or out of fear that if you don't God will punish you and bad things will happen to you. OR
3. **EVEN Just so people will get saved!** WHAT? Isn't that the point of Speaking of Jesus. **If serving is only worth it if people get saved then you will be much disappointment in life. Judas encountered Jesus kindness but walked away without a savior. Not everyone we serve to bless will get saved...but some will!**

Why then?

1. **(John 14:23 ESV)He commands us to.** Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **In (John 13:14 ESV) Jesus tells us...** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
2. **Because He First loved you! With an extravagant act of sacrifice and serving. He died on the cross for you. His bucket list was full of people He came to serve!** (1 John 4:19 ESV) We love because he first loved us. We love Jesus because he first loved us. We can't in our own power follow Jesus' commands in joy. **It is when we live in the love of Jesus we will love Him and follow his command to selflessly serve.**
3. **Here is the PAYOFF- Because we will be blessed! Verse 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.** It's the kind of blessing John talked about last week. **A blessing that leads you into the presence of the one who loves you most. You will serve to bless and be blessed in serving!**
4. Jesus told the disciples so much that didn't make any sense to them until after the cross. After the resurrection the disciples understood so much more of what Jesus was showing them through his love and serving them. Seeing the magnitude of His great Grace and love for them in how perfectly he served.

So Who do we serve then?

1. Those closest to you. Your church family. **(John 13:34-35 ESV)** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - a. This is the part that is pretty easy to us. Serving those that already love us. **(Luke 6:32-33 ESV)** “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
 - b. **Of course we need to serve each other. Love each other. That is one of our core values- Life together...** you DO need to serve in the children’s ministry and hospitality and greeting and youth ministry! **But Jesus says to serve and love our enemies**
2. **Our enemies, those outside our “tribe”, those who may not have anything to give us in return.** **(Luke 6:35-36 ESV)** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, **for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.
 - a. **Remember we were once enemies of Christ.** **(Romans 5:10-11 ESV)** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
 - b. **We can serve to bless our “enemies”** when we empathize with being an enemy to God once, and have experienced the joy of Salvation.
3. **Finally the how?**
 - a. **Living in His love we can serve without expecting anything in return.**
 - b. **The Sharing Shed-** Get involved. Get in there and get dirty. I have watched as families in need are served by you- carrying furniture, listening to stories and praying with them. We have had things stolen from us near the shed, maybe by the same people who we have served.
 - c. **Get involved with Foster care and adoption-** you will be hearing more and more in the near future about how you can help in serving children in need by fostering or adopting.
4. Serving our Enemies. Those outside our tribe that may hate you because of Jesus. **Maybe Serving our enemies needs to start with Confession.** Illus. Blue like Jazz-confessional at Reed College- The College that the **Princeton Review selected as the college most likely to ignore God. A Godless place.** A small group of Christians built a confessional booth in the middle of campus during a 3 day celebration called Renn Fayre. It appeared a place for people to confess the gross things they were doing at the fair. But instead it was a group of Christians confessing how they had wronged those who wanted nothing to do with God. Story of a man name **Jake** that was surprised to hear a Christian say **“Jesus said to....QUOTE from blue like jazz page 123.**

5. **A group of Christians went to Pride parade in Chicago with this sign confessing where we as Christians have failed loving them as Image bearers of Christ. I am sorry for not listening, For hiding behind religion when I was scared, I have looked down on you instead of honoring your humanity, I have chosen comfort over stepping out boldly in love.**
6. **We need to build bridges** to those outside our tribe and look for ways to serve them to bless. **Remember the pay off is a kind of blessing that will lead us into the presence of God. We are freed to serve like this because you and I were on Jesus' bucket list to save and Serve.**
7. **Seek ways to serve. Always be looking. Be Salt and Light.** (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
8. I began taking out my neighbor's trash when we moved in 8 years ago. We have since become good friends. A simple act of kindness has gone a long way. My daughters see us serving. Neighbors see kindness in world that is pretty selfish. Just recently have my neighbor and I begun speaking of the Gospel.
9. **How? Speak of Jesus!** Illus. Beach Reach in college. Where from 6pm till 6am we would off rides to college students partying on Padre Island. We were Serving Judas. A bunch of people who wanted nothing to do with Jesus..but in order to get a ride from us you were going to have to listen to us talk about Him. We picked up a huge dude named Trent who went to the UofWis. Osh Cosh. He looked at me and asked "is this the Jesus bus?" He Sat with me in a 15 passenger for several hours listening to me talk about who Jesus is and what he had done for me. I remember how hearing the gospel affected Trent. I could see the spirit melting his heart Trent surrendered his life to Jesus that night and even remained on the van telling other people they should listen to us because what we had to say was awesome. **Serving a man who had been drinking and didn't need to drive ended up with Jesus saving Him!** Sometimes in Serving we need to remember to speak of Jesus.
10. **When we serve the world like Jesus served Judas it is the salt that will bring people to the living water and the light that will lead out of darkness. If you know these things and do them you will be blessed. Bless to serve and be blessed by serving.**

Blessing for the end of service.

(Matthew 5:13-16 ESV)

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

