

G R O W T H N O T E S

Scripture Text: John 13:1-5

SERMON SERIES: Words That Change Reality

Message:

“S E R V E!”

(MINISTER/HELP/DO)!

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE TEXT

John 13:1-5 NIV: It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

BACKGROUND OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

- “Service is the rent we pay for living;
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said—“If you wanna be important—wonderful—if you wanna be recognized—wonderful—if you wanna be great—wonderful!
- BUT—recognize that the person who is greatest among you shall be your servant!
- Everybody can be great—BECAUSE—everybody can serve!
- You don't have to have a college degree to serve!
- You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve!

- You only need a heart full of grace—and a soul generated by love!
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- You will never be all that God created you to be—without a willingness to serve others!
- If we only eat—and never exercise—the end result will not be desirable over time!
- AND—it does not matter whether we're talking about physical food—or spiritual food—the metaphor applies!
- Because some of us come to church week after week—and we feed and feed—and feed our spirit—but do not exercise our faith—in service to others!
- Here's a spiritual target for all of us—CLEARLY identify where—AND—who we serve—in the name of the Lord?

- ***WHERE DO YOU SERVE?***

- ***WHO DO YOU SERVE?***

- Jesus and His disciples are gathered together, in the Upper Room—a borrowed loft—to celebrate the Feast of the Passover;
- The Passover Festival was an Annual Festival among the Hebrews that commemorated their Exodus from Egypt and how God delivered them from death and destruction after 430 years of oppression and subjugation!
- It was called “Pass-Over” to mark their collective memory that as the death angel descended exterminating every eldest child among the Egyptians—the people of Israel would “Pass-Over”—because they had stained their doors with the blood of lambs slain on their behalf;

- As Jesus and His disciples celebrated that night—they did not know that this would be their last meal with Jesus—because only hours later he would be betrayed and crucified!
- John, Chapters 13-17 records what is commonly called among biblical scholars, “The Upper Room Discourse”—in which Jesus gave His disciples final instructions and prayed for them before going to the Cross.
- Through this enacted parable Jesus commanded them and us to follow His example by serving one another.

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The church is to be a collective to society of servants!

What does that mean?

1. #1—"Our MOTIVATION for SERVING—should be LOVE!"

John 13 and 1 Says— It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- This is about the degree of His love that Jesus loved His own totally—fully—perfectly—and completely;
- This is what motivated Jesus in His final moments;
- Of Course, He was motivated by a passion for the glory of God—but he was also motivated by love for His own people!

- And this is where all Christian service begins—it’s motivated by love!
- That Christian service begins with love in your heart—not a towel in your hand or a title assigned to your name!

THE TEST FOR LOVE IS NOT WHAT WE SAY—BUT—HOW WE SERVE!

- That’s where we start by asking God to fill our hearts with the love of Christ for people so that we can love people like Jesus does!

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**2. #2—“The MODEL for our SERVICE is the Lord Jesus Christ!”
– John 13:2-11**

- The root of all conflict—particularly in the church is whenever we’re more concerned about who’s in charge than we are about how we can serve conflict ensues, and Christ is dishonored!
- Jesus stood—took off His outer clothing, wrapped Himself in a towel, poured water in a basin, and began to wash the dusty, dirty, sweaty, smelly, musty, malodorous feet of His disciples!
- ***This is why CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—and—CHRISTIAN DUTY—must always go together!***
- ***You cannot live the life God calls you to live if you don’t know who you are in Christ!***
- ***It’s our union with Christ that settles for us the issue of self-esteem!***

None of the disciples understood—so he explained in verse 15—Jesus said—“I’M GIVING YOU AN EXAMPLE!”

Don't let what you don't understand become a reason for not letting the Lord do what the Lord is trying to do—let go and let God!

Do not depend on what you already know!

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3. #3—"The MANDATE for our SERVICE is LASTING!"

• *There are 3 lessons in verses 12-17!*

• *For all of us as a collective society of servants—servants—**LESSON #1—ABIDE IN THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST!***

Verse 14, Says—“If I then—this is Jesus talking—Your Lord and Your Teacher—have washed your feet—you ought also to wash one another's feet—that's a command!

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• ***LESSION#2—SERVANTS ALIGN WITH THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST!***

In Verse 15, Jesus Said—“I’ve given you an example that you should follow!

- SO—if you really wanna be like Jesus—you have to do like Jesus—because it’s not what you say it’s what you do!

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• ***LESSON #3—SERVANTS ACTIVATE THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS!***

In Verse 17—Jesus Says—“If you know these things blessed are you—if you do them!

CONCLUSION

***GOD WILL USE YOU—IF YOU STOP MAKING EXCUSES AND
MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE!***

My Notes: _____
