

**The Road to Easter**  
**God of the Towel**

Today: John 13:1-17

**Lead in to the story**

*Everything about Jesus was rooted in humility*

**The story**

*Mark 10:35-45; John 13:1-17*

- **An anchored identity**
- **An unparalleled act**
- **An unwavering call**

**Picking up the towel. Where do I start?**

*Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 2:2-11; Galatians 5:13*

1. Why did Peter respond the way he did? What is our response when someone serves us? Why do we respond this way?

2. How does Jesus' service of Judas lead us in the way we should act in the face of betrayal and hurt? Judas was being served by Jesus, but he was also required to submit to that service and the exposure it demanded. How does Jesus' service of Judas reveal what Jesus demands from his disciples in terms of transparency or self disclosure?

3. Read 1 Peter 5:1-7 connecting it with John 13:12-13. Peter is writing later to fellow leaders in the church, exhorting them to a lifestyle of servant leadership. We see that Jesus believed that serving was an effective way to connect meaningfully with members of a community. How do you embody the servanthood of Jesus in your sphere of influence and community?

4. We see in the story that Jesus was quick to pick up the towel and serve where there was a need. In that culture it was customary to wash people's feet as they entered your home. In this story no one washed their feet. Who do you know (in your family, your neighborhood, your job, your church, etc.) that is often quick to serve and how does that facilitate your connection with them ?

5. Consider that it would have typically been those with the least status whose job it would have been to wash the feet of arriving guests. This is part of why the disciples were so scandalized by Jesus taking that role. How do Jesus' actions also speak directly to the existence of class division among Jesus' followers?

6. What are some barriers to serving that you experience in your life?

7. We see Jesus doing a simple task of washing feet as a way to be present and love his friends and enemies. What are some simple things we can do to be present and loving to our friends and enemies? What are some practical ways we can follow Jesus' example to cultivate an identity of servanthood?

<b>Seaside Finances</b>			
Weekly Goal	\$22,195	Monthly Goal	\$95,500
Received Last Week	\$12,644	Received in Mar.	\$72,757

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