

One Week Left - What Would You Do with Seven Days?

Episode 2 - John 13-14 — *Washing the Disciples Feet*

I. Washing Feet History

- A. Why was washing feet a part of the daily culture of Jesus day?
- B. Who was the typical person to wash the feet of others?
- C. What objects would a person use to perform this task?

II. Seating Arrangements

- A. From the text, who was the person of greatest honor at this banquet?
- B. Who was likely seated at the seat of least honor (the servant space) in the dinner and the most likely to be expected to wash feet?
- C. Read Matthew 20: 20-28. How important was “the place of honor” to the disciples that they would even get their mother involved to influence it? How does Jesus’ response upend the cultural norms?
- D. Since no one else is willing to take the role of the lowest in John’s account, Jesus takes on the role, as a model for what leadership means. How does Peter respond? Why do you think Peter responds this way?
- E. It is human nature to want the position of “being in charge.” Why is “becoming a servant” so difficult for our human nature?

III. Where I am Going

- A. If you were in the room, and Jesus indicates as he does in John 13: 31-38, that he is going away and that minimally, Peter will deny him (as Judas has just left to betray him), and with Jesus then saying in John 14:1, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled,” what emotions might you be experiencing?
- B. What is the real meaning of “In my house has many...?” The word “mansion” has been used in some translations. How is this counter to the culture of Israel where a room is added when a child is married?

- C. How comforting is it to know that God loves us deeply, and is preparing a room so that we can be near God?
- D. Why do you think John 14:1-6 is the preferred passage for funerals?

III. If there was only one week left in your life....

- A. What eternal truths would you try to emphasize to those you have mentored or parented? For Jesus, it was the importance of servanthood. What would it be for you?
- B. How would you try to reassure your loved ones that death is not the ultimate end. Jesus discussed the building rooms for when they arrived. What images might you use?
- C. How would you be at peace with having completed the ultimate purpose God has given to you? Jesus seems to have a calm awareness that he was completing his ultimate purpose. What is the ultimate purpose God has given you? How are you going about completing that task with the time God has given you?