

The Story: Chapter 26

The Hour of Darkness

Pastor Kevin Donoho

October 9, 2023

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

1) **THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**

2) **THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Read Together

John 13:1-17

“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. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and

Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Lesson #1: Jesus is highly intentional!

John 13:1 says:

“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.”

His time was growing short, and in an act of loving-kindness, He intentionally took this moment to teach and guide the disciples.

Similarly, we don’t “accidentally” grow in our relationship with Jesus. It takes intentionality through:

Thoughtfulness
Commitment
Practical Steps

What area or areas of your life do you find it easy to be very intentional? To map out a plan, make a commitment to stick to it, and create practical steps to grow or improve every single day? Share these with your group.

Spiritually speaking, how easy or hard is it for you to be intentional in your growth? In the three steps listed above (thoughtfulness, commitment, practical steps), which creates the most obstacle or struggle for you? What intention or next steps can you plan for today to be more intentional in your spiritual growth?

Lesson #2: Jesus redefines the idea of power!

John 13:3-4 says:

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.”

Were there specific lines or phrases that resonated with you more than others? Were there specific lines or phrases that challenged you more than others?

At this time and in their culture, when Jesus tied the towel around His waist, it sent a clear message. The task of washing someone's feet was reserved for a slave or servant; certainly not a teacher, a rabbi, or the Son of God.

And yet, knowing this, Jesus willingly stepped into the role of servant, choosing to redefine the meaning of power for His disciples and for us.

As a group, discuss how POWER is perceived in our culture. What are the attributes of someone who is considered powerful? What are the actions of a powerful person? How is power defined today?

While foot washing is not a common practice in our culture, there are things that the world may consider demeaning or "beneath" someone with power. What comes to mind? Share those with your group.

In this lesson, Jesus challenged the disciples to think differently about power. How does this lesson do the same for you? Where is God calling you to approach a situation not from the top down, but from the bottom up? How can the relinquishing of power in these situations bring glory to God and further the Kingdom?

Lesson #3: Jesus calls us to the uncomfortable!

John 13:5-11 says:

"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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord are you going to wash my feet? Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one

of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Peter was so uncomfortable at that moment. And understandably so. Culturally, as a follower of Jesus, this moment was very backward for him.

But Jesus used the discomfort of this moment to teach Peter, and us, an important lesson. His words communicated that unless He washes our sins away by going to the cross, we cannot have a relationship with the Father.

And in response to that He is simply looking for our YES!

Are there areas of your life that you can and have emphatically offered your YES to Jesus? What does this look like? Are there areas where you struggle to offer your yes? Or an area in which you hesitated to say yes? What held you back? Where was the discomfort in saying yes? Why do you think Jesus used this moment to teach the disciples in this way about discomfort?

Lesson #4: Jesus invites us to do what He is doing!

John 13:14-17 says:

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know the things, you will be blessed if you do them."

The lessons Jesus taught here aren't simply theories to ponder, but rather a calling to take action. To serve others from a place of humility and sacrifice.

How does this mindset challenge you? What areas of your life do you find it easy to do as Jesus did? What areas of your life are more complicated? How is Jesus stretching you right now? What is a "foot-washing moment" that you can share to encourage your group?

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

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***Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

