

onechurch

bigIdea



Climb to the top. Climb the corporate ladder. If you want to be great, you rise to greatness. But Jesus flips it around. He says, “You really want to be the greatest? You want to be My Disciple? Then you must descend into greatness.”

BIG IDEA: A disciple serves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When it comes to housework, what is the last job you would pick?
2. Read Matthew 23:11-12. How counter-cultural is this thought? Would you follow a leader with this outlook and attitude?
3. Read Mark 10:32-45. How would you have reacted if you were Jesus and you received this request?
4. Read Luke 22:24. How does this verse put context in what happens in John 13?
5. Read John 13:1, and notice the word *authority*. Jesus was the most important person in that room. How does Jesus leverage His importance? How do most people their status and importance?

He disrobes His outer garments and, without hesitation, picks up a bowl filled with water. While the disciples are arguing over who is greatest, Jesus rises—without speaking one word and with a painful glance—He heads toward the doorway. He takes off his garments (reducing himself to the position of a slave) and without hesitation, picks up a bowl filled with water. Jesus, God in the flesh—the One who created Mt. Everest with a whisper and carved the Grand Canyon with the tip of His finger—Jesus kneels in front of every disciple—including Judas—washes all of their feet and dries them with a towel. They were shocked, stunned and embarrassed. They didn't know what to make of this. The pride drained from the disciple's voices. The arguing stopped. And they watched in shame as Jesus assumed the role they would not. Christ's powerful arms washing the toe jam from around his disciple's toes.

6. What is your first impression of this story about footwashing?
 - a. This is gross
 - b. This is moving
 - c. This is embarrassing
 - d. This is irrelevant for our culture.
7. What was the significance of taking off his rabbinical/teaching clothing in John 13:4?
8. If you were Peter, would you have reacted as he did? Why or why not? While Peter is taking the washing of his feet literally, what do you think Jesus meant by His statement in verse 8?
9. In your spiritual life, who is one person who has demonstrated what it means to ‘wash feet’? What did he or she specifically do?
10. Specifically, how will you put Jesus' teaching into practice in at least one relationship this week at home? Work? Church?
11. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?
 - a. To humble them
 - b. to show them real leadership
 - c. To be an example of servanthood
 - d. to show His deep love for them
 - e. to illustrate His mission
12. In John 13:14, is this command meant to be taken literal? Why or why not?

VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Matthew 23:11-12, Mark 10:35-45, Philippians 2:3-11, John 13:1-17, 31-35