



Sermon Title: Jesus: Our Example

Date: 10/29/2023

John 13:1-17

Big idea: Follow Jesus' example in every act of service.

We can follow Jesus' example by imitating three characteristics that are highlighted in this moment:

1. Jesus' love for the ones He served

This is the night before Jesus is to be crucified. He knows the time for Him to go to the cross is coming. Yet, Jesus gets up to wash the feet of His disciples. **John 13:1 tells us Jesus' attitude. Jesus loved these men. Jesus used this occasion to show His unwavering love for His followers. This is how we are to feel towards the people that we serve (**1 John 3:16**).**

We need to love everyone around us, including the people that we serve, with an *agape* type of love. The kind of love that gives without demanding repayment. We do that by experiencing His love for ourselves and knowing that because He loved us, we need to love other people. **1 John 4:11-12.**

2. Jesus' humility as a servant

John 13:4

Usually, a slave was appointed this duty when their master and their guests returned to the home from walking on dirt roads. People's feet back then would have dirt, mud, etc., over them from walking either barefoot or with sandals on. Jesus still did it. He did the work of a slave because He loved the disciples, and He was there to serve them. **Philippians 2:5-8**

Paul launches into this teaching about Jesus' equality with God. It wasn't that Jesus was trying to *achieve* equality with God. He already had it! Jesus' divine nature wasn't something He had to seek or acquire; it was something He was already. His equality with God was something that scripture says He emptied Himself. It isn't as if Jesus emptied Himself of His deity, His attributes, or His equality with God. Jesus did not become "less God" in His

incarnation. Rather, it was as if He covered the glory of His divine majesty with the tattered and ripped rags of a beggar. **Matthew 20:28**

Real ministry is done for the benefit of those served, not for the person or people serving. Jesus' death on the cross – the giving of his life – purchased the freedom of His people.

3. Jesus' wisdom as a teacher

John 13:12

Jesus' entire life was a lesson and an example to the disciples. He's specifically drawing attention to the fact that He washed their feet, and it meant something! It means that in the same way that He did, His disciples need to show humble and sacrificial love to one another.

Later in the passage, Peter says, "You shall never wash my feet"! Peter is seemingly uncomfortable with Jesus performing such a humble act of service for him. But Jesus says: **"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."** Even though Peter followed Jesus, he still needed His feet washed. Jesus teaches them that they all need it, and that they need to do the same for each other.

Jesus set the example. Now, we follow in His footsteps. Anything we do for each other that washes away the grime of the world and the dust of defeat and discouragement is foot washing. That includes serving in a ministry, fixing people's houses, and, ultimately, sharing the gospel with them.

Matthew 5:14-16

We serve and teach people the gospel so that people will glorify God in heaven, not for our own gain or personal achievement. You are carrying the Good News everywhere you go. You're a walking example of it! In the same way, Jesus taught His disciples to love and serve one another, we are to do the same for those around us. Be the light of the world. Shine the light towards the Father!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Can there ever be a wrong motive to serve? Explain**
- **Why is having a servant's heart important for spreading the gospel?**
- **From what you know of Jesus' disciples, did they serve one another following Jesus' example? Explain**
- **Describe a time when someone served you and its impact on you.**
- **Is serving others easy for you or a struggle? Explain**