

WHEN SERVING IS A PLEASURE

John 13:1-17 NIV

"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. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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 . . . ¹² 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."

John 13:1-5, 12 (NIV)

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 13:1b (NIV)

❖ So Why SHOULD I Serve?

1. Because JESUS set the EXAMPLE.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

John 13:13-15 (NIV)

2. Because SCRIPTURE commands it.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

3. Because it brings TRUE JOY.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:17 (NIV)

❖ Why DON'T I Serve?

1. Because it's INCONVENIENT, I'm LAZY, or it's BENEATH me.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

2. Because I've PUT MY TIME IN.

"I stand here before you—an old, gray-haired man—and my sons serve you. I have served you from the time I was a boy to this very day . . . ²³ as for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right."

1 Samuel 12:2, 23 (NLT)

3. Because I don't KNOW where to START.

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:28-29 (NIV)

4. Because I don't have ANYTHING to OFFER.

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

John 6:8-9 (NIV)