

WE THE KINGDOM

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Summary:

This powerful message takes us deep into John 13:1-17, where Jesus performs one of the most radical acts of humility recorded in Scripture: washing His disciples' feet. In first-century culture, this was work reserved for the lowest household servant, yet the King of Kings knelt down with a towel and basin. This passage challenges us to rethink everything we know about greatness, authority, and power. In the kingdom of God, the hierarchy is completely flipped. The king kneels, power stoops, and authority serves. We're confronted with a beautiful paradox: servanthood is not a side value in God's kingdom, it's the very posture that defines it. The message explores what it truly means to be part of this kingdom, not just someday in heaven, but beginning right now in our daily lives. We're called to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, which means passionately pursuing His authority and power in our lives rather than our own desires. The church, the Ekklesia, is presented as God's people called out and brought together for a purpose. We are the body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit, and a spiritual fellowship where no individual is more important than another. Whether greeting at the door, serving in nursery, or leading worship, every act of service contributes to creating an atmosphere where people can encounter Jesus. The challenge is clear: we don't need a throne, we just need a towel. This posture of humble service is what prepares us for eternal authority and makes the culture of heaven visible on earth.

Directly Referenced Scriptures:

1. **John 13:1-17** - Main text read at the beginning (Jesus washing the disciples' feet)
2. **Matthew 6:33** - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"
3. **Mark 10:45** - Jesus came not to be served, but to serve

Alluded to or Thematically Connected Scriptures:

Kingdom of God Theme:

4. **Luke 17:20-21** - The kingdom of God is within/among you
5. **Matthew 6:10** - "Your kingdom come, your will be done"
6. **Colossians 1:13** - Transferred into the kingdom of God's Son

Key Points:

- Jesus demonstrated servanthood by washing the disciples' feet, performing a task reserved for the lowest servant to show love and model humble service
- To be part of the kingdom means living under God's loving rule and authority beginning now, not just in the future
- Seeking God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33) requires passionate and active pursuit, not passive interest
- The church (ekklesia) is a called-out community assembled for the purpose of worshiping, honoring, and serving God
- The church functions as God's people, the temple of the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ, and a spiritual fellowship
- In the kingdom, the last become first, servants are greatest, forgiveness is power, humility is strength, and love wins
- Servanthood is the posture that defines the kingdom—it is not a side value but the central characteristic
- The kingdom of God flips hierarchy: the king kneels, power stoops, and authority serves
- Servanthood kills pride, softens entitlement, aligns ambition with God's purposes, and reminds us we are stewards, not owners
- Every act of service displays the culture of heaven, reveals the nature of Jesus, and makes God's rule visible
- Servanthood is evangelistic—it makes Jesus visible and known to others
- Faithful service in small things prepares believers for eternal authority and reigning with Christ
- Church growth requires a response of saying yes to serving in various ministry capacities
- The proper posture is "I don't need a throne, I'll take a towel"

Quotes:

“Servanthood is not a side value in the kingdom of God. It is the posture that defines it.”

“In the kingdom, greatness is measured by humility. The king kneels, power stoops, and authority serves.”

“To be part of the kingdom is to say, I don't need a throne, I'll take a towel.”

“Servanthood protects the heart. It kills pride, it softens entitlement, aligns ambition with God's purposes, and it reminds us that we are stewards, not owners.”

“Every time we serve, the culture of Heaven is displayed. The nature of Jesus is revealed. God's rule becomes visible and servanthood is evangelistic.”

“As a church, we must pray that God's kingdom will operate in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit to save people from sin, to destroy demonic power, to heal the sick, and to bring honor to the Lord Jesus in every way.”

“Servanthood is not serving in hopes of earning praise, honor, or rewards. Servanthood is truly a genuine, pure reflection of the posture of Jesus.”

5-Day Devotional: Living as Kingdom Servants

Day 1: The Posture of Humility

Reading: John 13:1-17

Devotional: Jesus, the King of Kings, knelt before His disciples with a towel and basin. This wasn't a symbolic gesture—it was a revolutionary redefinition of greatness. In the kingdom of God, the last become first, and servants are greatest. Consider what Jesus demonstrated: true authority doesn't demand service; it offers it. Today, reflect on areas where pride keeps you from serving others. Are you waiting for recognition before you act? Kingdom citizens don't need thrones—they take towels. Ask God to reveal one practical way you can serve someone today without expectation of return. Remember, hidden obedience matters, and serving unseen still counts in God's economy.

Day 2: Seeking First the Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" isn't passive advice—it's an active pursuit. The word "seek" implies being continually absorbed in a search, making consistent effort to obtain something. What consumes your thoughts and energy? God's kingdom and righteousness should be our passionate pursuit, not our afterthought. This means desperately desiring God's authority and power evident in our lives, never allowing personal preferences to override what God wants to accomplish. Today, examine your priorities. Are you seeking God's kingdom first, or are earthly concerns dominating your attention? Commit to one specific way you'll actively pursue God's reign in your life this week.

Day 3: A New Identity in Christ

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:19-22

Devotional: Belonging to the kingdom means you have a new identity. You're no longer defined by past failures, status, or cultural expectations. You are a citizen of heaven, adopted into God's family. The old you is gone; you are who God always intended you to be. The church isn't just a building—it's God's people, a living temple where His Spirit dwells. As part of Christ's body, you have a God-given role that matters. No individual is more important than another; we work together in unity. Today, reject any labels from your past that contradict your identity in Christ. You are chosen, loved, and purposefully placed in God's kingdom for such a time as this.

Day 4: Servanthood Transforms Lives

Reading: Mark 10:35-45

Devotional: Jesus declared He came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom. Servanthood isn't a side value in God's kingdom—it's the posture that defines it. Every act of service, whether greeting at the door, caring for children, or working behind the scenes, participates in life transformation. You create an atmosphere for others to encounter Jesus authentically. Servanthood kills pride, softens entitlement, and aligns ambition with God's purposes. It makes Jesus visible and known. When we serve, the culture of heaven is displayed. Consider this: faithful service in small things prepares you for greater authority in God's kingdom. What "small" act of service is God calling you to embrace today? Remember, greatness is measured by humility.

Day 5: Preparing for What's Next

Reading: Luke 16:10-13; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Devotional: God is orchestrating growth in His church, and He's calling His people to prepare—not for what is, but for what's coming. We're stewards, not owners, of the gifts and opportunities God provides. Faithful stewardship in little leads to being trusted with much. Your willingness to serve now positions you for the exponential growth God desires to bring. This isn't about earning praise; it's about reflecting Jesus's posture. When God sends people, will you be ready? Saying "yes" to serving prepares the way for kingdom advancement. Today, prayerfully consider where God is calling you to step up. Don't wait for the "perfect" ministry—try, learn, and adjust. Your obedience matters more than your perfection. Count yourself in.