

## Parting Words: Finding Happiness in Filthy Feet

John 13:1-17

Small Group Discussion

**Intro Questions** (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- Share about a time when you had the wrong first impression of someone (or if you can't think of an example, share about a time when someone had a wrong first impression of you).
- How can a wrong impression of someone lead you to relate with him or her in unhealthy ways?
- Try to recall your earliest understanding of Jesus—who he is, and what he came to do. How close was that understanding to how you currently see him?

**Pray:** Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide your study and discussion of God's word.

**Read John 13:1-17**, then discuss the following.

- There was much in this passage that we didn't have time to unpack on Sunday morning. What are some details or observations that jump out at you on reading this passage? What are some questions that you have about it? Before you go any farther, see if among your group, you can understand what these details mean and answer any questions that might arise.
- Why do you think John mentions the date (v. 1)? Is he just giving readers the setting, or is there something more significant about this statement?
- Why is Jesus's "hour" significant? What event is this "hour" referencing? See also John 2:4, 7:30, 8:20, 12:23, and 12:27.
- What does John mean when he says, "he loved them to the end?" Can you think of two possible meanings?
- We learned on Sunday that the verb "know" is a key word in this passage. What is the content that Jesus knows, according to v. 1 and v. 3? How does this content enable him to do what he does (both in this scene and at the cross)?
  - To what degree would you say that your knowledge about Jesus impacts your day-to-day life? Are there any areas where you think that your spiritual knowledge has not yet impacted your living?
- Why is Peter so startled, and resistant to what Jesus is doing (v. 6 and 8)?
- What does Jesus' answer in v. 7 show us about the meaning of this act of service?
- At the end of v. 8, Jesus says, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." We know from v. 7 that he's not talking about literally getting the filth off Peter's feet. What is he talking about?
  - On Sunday, we saw that this statement gets at the essence of what Jesus came to do: **he came to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves**, washing us spiritually by his sacrificial death. If Jesus were to make this statement directly to you, what might be your response? Do you agree wholeheartedly, or do you feel some resistance? Elaborate.

- In v. 12, Jesus sits back down and creates space for the group of disciples to process what has just happened. Why is it important for him to do this?
  - In what ways has this small group helped you to process what God says in the Bible, so that it goes beyond head knowledge for you? What are some ways that this small group could be more helpful in this process?
- In vv. 14-15, what is Jesus asking his disciples (then and now) to do? What might that look like in our lives today?
- Our key word, “know,” shows up again in v. 17.
  - What “things” does Jesus reference when he says, “Now that you know these things?”
  - What kind of *knowing* is he talking about?
  - Jesus says that if we act on these things that we know, we will be *blessed*. We saw Sunday that this word “blessed” means deeply happy, or content, in a way that transcends circumstances. Summarizing the whole passage, how would you say that Jesus wants us to find this kind of happiness?
  - How does internalizing what Jesus came to do for us enable us to humble ourselves and serve our brothers and sisters? What might stand in the way of our doing that?
- Do you feel that Jesus is asking you to take any specific step of service to others at this point in your journey?

**PRAYER:**

- Pray for one another to be able to act on the steps you shared in the last discussion question.
- If you haven’t already shared about particular needs in your life, be sure to do that, and pray for one another.