

Take a moment right now to write down the thoughts going through your head so that you can focus on God's Word. Write down your thoughts about home life, quarantine, parents, siblings, friends, and anything else that might distract you.

Jesus is a Servant

Today we will read and apply how Jesus is a servant and set the example for His disciples by washing their feet. Places like Chick-fil-a are known for making a big deal out of customer service (i.e., "my pleasure"), but customer service is simply being a servant. The places who have the best customer service typically are the ones who make the most profit because people want to go there. Jesus doesn't call us to be servants to make ourselves look better. Instead He calls us to be servants because no one is better than another. We serve because Christ has served us. I hope today you see the joy Jesus had in serving His Disciples and it challenges and encourages you to be a servant for His glory. Remember this, Jesus is God and was willing to wash the feet of a bunch of smelly men. Don't you think He would do the same for you?

**Note on the Feast of Passover - it is the most important Jewish feast commemorating their deliverance from the Egyptians. You can read all about it in Exodus chapter 12.*

As you read through the Scriptures today circle all of the different people in the passage and underline every time Jesus serves or loves someone.

John 13:1-5 ¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- 1) Do you think Jesus loved Judas Iscariot the same as the other Disciples? Why or why not?

- 2) What can you learn about how to love those who betray us or annoy us by the way Jesus loved Judas?

- 3) From verse 3, where does Jesus put His trust even though He knows agony and death are near?

John 13:6-11 ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

- 4) What are your initial thoughts about Peter’s thoughts and words to Jesus? What is Peter missing?
- 5) What do you think Jesus means in verses 9-10? (After writing down your thoughts, see the end of the devotional for a note.)

John 13:12-17 ¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?” ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- 6) What did foot washing require of the person washing the feet? What is the clear message Jesus is sending to His Disciples?
- 7) How was this message counter-cultural then and how is it so now?

- 8) Why would Jesus want to set the example as a servant for His Disciples?

- 9) How much Biblical knowledge do you need to know to be a servant? What does that mean for your life?

- 10) What are the effects of living as a servant? What are the effects of living self-centered?

- 11) Obviously Jesus isn't commanding us to literally "wash" others' feet (v 14), but for who can you proverbially "wash their feet" even in the midst of a time when we cannot be together in person? Write down a specific way you can serve someone this week.

John 13:18-20 ¹⁸*I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'* ¹⁹*I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.* ²⁰*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

- 12) How do you think Jesus telling His Disciples what would happen helped them believe after His death and resurrection?

- 13) End today by reflecting and writing down your thoughts on Jesus' servant heart and how that impacts your life.

**Note on John 13:9 - Jesus is saying "Unless I wash your sins away by My atoning death (cf. Rev. 1:5) you have no real relationship to Me" (cf. 1 John 1:7). Anyone who believes in Jesus as their savior from their sins, has already "bathed" and is eternally clean.*

***Note on John 13:10 - after salvation all one needs is confession of sins, the continual application of Jesus' death to cleanse one's daily sins (cf. 1 John 1:7; 2:1-2). Confession, represented by foot washing, doesn't save you; it just helps restore a right relationship between you and God.*