

MEN'S BREAKFAST - JESUS WASHES THEIR FEET

1. What were the special meals in your family: What was usually served?
2. What is your idea of great customer service?
3. In what way does our society instill in us the desire to be served?
4. Have you ever been asked to do a demeaning, lowly job? What thoughts went through your mind at that time?

John 13:1-17 (NIV) 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, 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.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

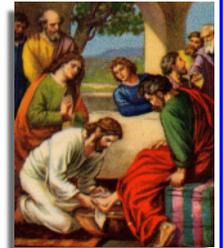
8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean.

And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

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. 13 "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. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



DISCUSSION: The first 12 chapters cover of three years, The next 6 chapters cover one night.

1. Why didn't the disciples wash their feet before supper?
 - a. They forgot.
 - b. They were slobs.
 - c. It wasn't their job.
 - d. There weren't any servants there.
2. What do you suppose the atmosphere was like at this meal?
3. What range of feelings did Jesus have for his disciples?
4. How did Jesus show his love for his friends?
5. What was Simon Peter's immediate reaction to being served by Jesus?
6. Why was it difficult for Simon Peter to accept Jesus' service? Why is it difficult for us to accept Jesus doing this?
7. If you were Peter, would you have reacted as he did? Why *or why* not? While Peter is taking the washing of his feet literally, what do you think Jesus

meant by his statement in verse 8? In verse 10?

8. What did Jesus mean when he said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me?"
 - a. "I don't want to share a room with anyone with dirty feet."
 - b. "To be part of me you have to learn to receive."
 - c. "You have to let my coming sacrifice cleanse you from your sin."
 - d. "As long as you live you will need cleansing and forgiveness."
 - e. "Unless you're a servant like I am, you can't be my disciple."
9. Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet?
 - a. to shame them
 - b. to be an example of servanthood
 - c. to illustrate his whole mission
 - d. to show them real leadership
 - e. to show his deep love for them before he died

10. How did Jesus expect the disciples to follow his example?

- a. to wash each other's feet literally
- b. to be willing to do the "dirty work"
- c. to take care of each other
- d. to observe footwashing regularly in the church, like Communion

11. What does Jesus *know* that escapes the disciples' attention (w. 1,3,11)? Hence, what impresses you about Jesus washing their feet?

12. How does Jesus challenge their idea of what it means to be the chief followers of the Messiah (w. 12—17)? What role reversals do you see here?

13. Are you surprised that he washed Judas' feet too? How do you think Jesus felt? How do you think Judas felt?

14. How does Jesus explain his actions? (v12-17)?

15. Jesus' act is one of love and humble servitude, but it also represents something else Something about salvation - what is it?

John 12:26 (NIV) 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Ephesians 6:7-8 (NIV) 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV) 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV) 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature

of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

1 Peter 5:5 (NIV) 5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

John 15:3 (NIV) 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

Mark 10:35-45 (NIV) 35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." 36 "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 37 They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." 38 "You don't know

what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" 39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, 40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." 41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. 42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

REFLECTION:

1. What long-term impact do you think Jesus' actions had on the disciples?
2. When has the humble service of a fellow believer inspired you?
3. What are some of the rewards of serving others?
4. Why is it important for believers to have fellowship with each other?
5. How does it affect you to see people serving with humility in the church?
6. When have you found it difficult to accept help from a fellow believer? Why?
7. Growing up, how often did your family sit down and eat together?
8. How much did you visit round the table? How does that compare to your current lifestyle?
9. How can you better serve your children?
 1. spend more time with them
 2. give them my undivided attention
 3. give them more affection
 4. bless them more with special meals and other fun occasions

10. Which of the following is true about your job?

1. My job has nothing to do with serving - it's about making money
2. Jesus' example of servanthood is what keeps me going in my job.
3. I have to do many servant tasks, most of which are pleasant.
4. I have to do many servant tasks, most of which are unpleasant.
5. Feeling underqualified for my job, I'd welcome more servant tasks.
6. Feeling overqualified, I do more servant tasks than I would like.

11. In what circumstances is it more difficult to serve rather than to be served? Why?

12. When is it more difficult to be served than to serve? Why?

PRAYERS

Father, in Jesus we see the perfect model of humble service. Help us to be like him. Open our eyes to the needs of others. Help us to follow your Word. Help us to follow in Christ's footsteps.

