

Served to Serve

Word

Scripture Reference

John 13:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. Describe your ideal customer service.
2. Read John 13:1-17. God didn't create us just to put us in a safe and comfortable place, but to use us in order to shine for Him. In order to do so, we have to follow two basic principles of Christian life based on the story of Jesus washing His disciples feet. First, we cannot walk with Jesus nor do His work unless we allow Him first to serve us. In the beginning of the story in this passage, what was Jesus celebrating (v.1). What does Passover mean? How did it come about? How are we in bondage? In what way did Jesus serve us so that we can be released from this bondage (v.2- 3)?
3. Jesus, knowing about his imminent death, did something that really surprised His disciples. What did He do when He got to His feet from His meal with them (v.4-5)? Why did Jesus' action stun them (v.6)? Discuss the conversation between Jesus and Peter in verses 6-9. If you were one of Jesus' disciples, would you have allowed Him to wash your feet? Why could we not walk with Him nor serve Him unless we allow Him to serve us first? In what ways did Jesus serve us first? In this sense, what makes Christianity different from other religions?
4. Foot washing symbolizes forgiveness. You were forgiven the moment you put your trust in God, but you need to come to Him regularly on a daily basis to have your sin forgiven and to be right with Him when you get "dirty" with sin (1John 1:9), which explains verse 12. Do you think Peter realized the significance of the foot washing? But why didn't it apply to Judas Iscariot? Why did he reject Jesus and could not connect with Him? Would his story be different if he applied the first principle in Christian living as Peter did, which is allowing Jesus to serve him first?
5. Second, once we allow Jesus to serve us and to do His work in us, then we, too, are to go on serving one another. In other words, having been served by Jesus it is then that we can serve one another (v.14). As foot washing symbolizes forgiveness, there are three ways how it can be done in our life today.

- a. "Foot washing" is when you forgive each other. Why is it possible to forgive another person who had wronged you? Why is forgiveness comparable to washing of someone's feet?
- b. "Foot washing" is when you seek to restore others. What do you do when a person has fallen into sin? How can you help that person to get back to the right way? Have you asked God to speak to you through His Word, which has cleansing effect, and to speak through you?
- c. "Foot washing" is when you reach out through loving service. What are some practical things that you could do as an act of service?

Walk

The More like the Master I would live and grow; More of His love to others I would show; More self-denial, like His in Galilee, More like the Master I long to ever be.

Take Thou my heart, I would be Thine alone; Take Thou my heart, and make it all Thine own; Purge me from sin, O Lord, I now implore, Wash me and keep me Thine forevermore.

Count the ways that Jesus has blessed you. In response, how could you bless others as well? Do you find it hard to allow others to serve you? Do you find it difficult to serve others? How does Jesus wash your feet today?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, we can't thank you enough for loving us. And because of your love, You served us by sending our Lord Jesus Christ to redeem us from our sin. Thank you that you never stopped to "wash our feet" from the sins we commit each day. Your Word says that You, who is faithful, will not only forgive us our sins but will cleanse us from all unrighteousness as well. May You help us to respond to You in the same way by being willing to serve others. Help us to forgive those who have wronged us. Help us to learn how to reach out to restore those who have fallen into sin. May you empower us to make an effort to serve others lovingly. Thank You that through your grace, we can imitate You and be more like You, our Master. In Jesus' Name, Amen.