

**Bible Study Topic:** Are there any foot washers in the house?

**Scripture:** John 13:1-5, 12-17

**The Big Idea:** Developing a foot washer's attitude gains you the blessing of a servant.

### **Are there any foot washers in the house?**

Post-shutdown religiosity is emerging, making room for a new form of justification or legitimacy. Some of the shut-down characteristics are Zoom meetings, video worship, separation, and isolation. We witness in the post-shut-down era the characteristics of the shut-down have been carried over. Thus, a shut-down hangover, with the residue of the shutdown presenting a dualistic approach. What we witness is a shutdown-influenced religion versus a Savior-influenced religion. The elementary forms of religious life furnish society with a life form (religion of responsibility/accountability/service), thus giving it ultimate meaning. Enveloped in that life-form is a life of service. Service is work done for other people or for God. Service at its best is worship.

Jesus performs an act that embodies service. Three lessons that can be taken from this narrative:

A NON-SERVING CHRISTIAN IS A CONTRADICTION

THERE SHOULD BE A SPIRIT OF SERVITUDE THAT GOVERNS AND GUIDES THE BELIEVER

SERVING SHOULD BE A WAY OF BEING IN THE CHURCH

How do we get there?

**Confidence** in your being. Jesus knew at least four things in the text.

1. His assignment. (v1 The hour had come for Him to leave this world; Col. 3.23; Eph. 4.11-12; 2Tim. 2.15)
2. His allotment. (v3 The Father had put all things under His power)
3. His identity. (v3 Come from God)
4. His reward. (v1, 3 go to the Father, returning to God)

Compassion for others. (v1 loved his own; 1 Corinthians 13.4-8, 16.14; Gal. 5.13-14; 1 John 4.8; 1Pet. 4.8; Col. 3.14; John 13.34-35; 1John 4.19)

In our text, we witness this love that Paul describes on display when we find Jesus in the upper room with His Disciples. Supper has ended, and He rises from the table, lays aside His garments, girds Himself with a towel, pours water into a basin, and begins to wash the disciples' feet.

Foot washing was seen as a menial task in Jewish eyes. It was so menial that Jewish slaves were not permitted to wash feet; it was reserved for Gentile slaves. Yet our text shows that this Jewish man from Nazareth, Jesus, of all people, washed the disciples' feet.

Here is a relevant question:

How do you love them?

How is this done? Love one another as I have loved you. (John 15.12)

You must Love beyond Limits (It Requires Love).

To be a servant, you must **Lower** yourself beyond **Limits**. (You must Remove Self) vv13-16

Jesus, in the text, **humbles** Himself and performs this outward act of humility. Humility is having an accurate estimation of one's self.

Jesus here chose **service** over **status**. Jesus shows us here that **greatness** in the Kingdom is not defined by earthly **status** but by the **service** we give. His **position** didn't prevent Him from serving. His **status** didn't stop Him from serving. There is no position in the church that is too high to serve. No matter how high we get, we should never get too high until we can't bow down to help somebody out. The lower you can go in the Kingdom determines how high you go in the Kingdom (**Phil. 2.5-8**).

**Here are the relevant questions:** Can you lower yourself, humble yourself, and serve? Does the position you hold keep you from serving? Does the power you have prevent you from serving? Are you one of those people who thinks it's not right unless you do it? Are you one of those people who thinks all ideas are bad ideas unless they're your idea? Are you one of those people who can find the wrong in everyone and everything and can never compliment? Are you one of the misguided that believe that there are several visions in the house? When in fact there is only one vision and one visionary.