

# DIGGING DEEPER

- When you have someone over for dinner, what do you do to prepare for your guests?
- When someone chooses to serve you in some way, or offers to bless you in some way, what does that say to you about their love for you?
- In what ways have you served the people that you love? Why did you choose to serve them?

## Read John 13:1-17

**Jesus washes the disciples' feet.** Verses 2 and 3 let us in on an interesting dynamic before Jesus washes His disciples' feet. The Devil is at work in Judas and Jesus knows. It is not made clear how evident this event was, but Judas had already resolved to betray Christ. The fact that Christ knew all that was going on around Him gives a more robust picture of the humility He is about to display. Jesus' humility is magnified by His knowledge of Judas' intentions.

Verse 3 gives us something profound, and if we aren't careful, we will miss it. Jesus knew and trusted that all things were in His Father's hands. Jesus knew the Father had all things under control and that all things were working together. He trusted. He didn't waver and question whether or not He should move forward or whether He should try and stop Judas or call attention to what He knew. He simply trusted. In this passage, trust and humility are two things Jesus puts on display in perfect form.

And so Jesus continues and prepares to wash their feet. Something to understand about foot washing is that it was an Old Testament tradition that was normally performed by slaves. For this reason, the disciples become uncomfortable. They are not okay with Jesus, their master and teacher, taking on the role of their slave. This is so important because it is a preview of His ultimate service; and it's why Jesus tells Peter in verse 7 that he will later understand.

**Jesus challenges those who follow Him to serve others.** As Jesus sits down, He asks a remarkably simple, yet essential, question. He asks if they know why He did that. He wants to know if they understand. His question reveals that His entire previous act was all to work as a symbol. He had a point for them to take hold of and now He wants to ensure that they got it. Jesus' desire here is that His disciples walk away understanding what true service is and what it looks like. This, as He knows, will ultimately be shown in His death. The Shepherd will soon die for the sheep.

In all of this, Jesus knows why they struggle with what's happening. He understands the way the disciples view Him. He acknowledges that the disciples felt that His act was offensive because they see Him as both Rabbi and Lord. And so Jesus shows them, by using the argument "from the greater to the lesser," that if He, being Lord and teacher (the words are now reversed), was willing to wash the disciples' feet, His followers should do the same for one another.

- How are Jesus' actions a call to remove self-exaltation?
- What does it mean for you to love people as Jesus has loved them?
- How is love a sign that someone is a disciple of Christ?
- What meal is Jesus about to eat with his disciples?
- What does it mean to love someone to the end? Has someone shown you this kind of love in your life? Have you ever shown someone else this kind of love?
- In what ways could you "love someone to the end" as you live your life?

What did Jesus know as he prepared to eat the Passover Meal with his disciples? Read John 13:1-3 & 11.

- Does what Jesus did (serve the disciples), have a greater impact because of what Jesus knew beforehand?
- If you knew that you had less than 24 hours left to live, would you choose to serve others? That's what Jesus did.
- Could you serve someone knowing that they would betray you? That's what Jesus did.

What does Jesus do to serve and love his disciples during this meal? Read John 13:4-5.

- Who usually washed feet in the first century? Did Jesus have to wash feet? What does this tell you about the nature and attitude of Jesus?
- Why didn't any of the disciples think to offer to wash feet? What were some of the other disciples doing during this meal? Read Luke 22:24.
- How does seeing Jesus serve and love his disciples help you to understand how you are called to serve and love people in your life?

What does Jesus tell his disciples to do based on what he has done for them? Read John 13:13-17.

- Is Jesus leaving a command that we should wash feet, or is he teaching his disciples (and all followers) about something bigger than foot washing? If this is about something bigger, what is the bigger lesson Jesus is teaching?
- How does someone serve others with a good attitude?
- How would you describe humility? Is it a skill, a gift?
- In what way does our society instill in us the desire to be served?
- Why is it hard to maintain an intimate and growing relationship with another person?
- How would it feel to be betrayed by a close friend?
- How do we betray Jesus with our words or by our life-style?

Read Ephesians 1:22-23

- Who is the Head of the Church?
- What is the Church?
- How does the church grow, How do you grow individually?
- What's my role in the body of Christ? and to HIS church?
- Describe a time when you have seen people accomplish more by working together.

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**.

- How does Paul's image of a body help us understand what the church is and how it functions?
- Why might some Christians feel unimportant or envious of other parts of the body?
- What are some examples of "*behind the scenes ministry*" that your church would miss if they stopped happening?
- According to this passage (**vv. 21-26**), how can we make every part of the body feel important?
- What could that look like in your church?
- How does our level of contentment reflect the reality of our relationship with God?
- How can we grow in contentment?

Read **Romans 12:4-13**.

- What is the benefit to the body when each member uses his or her spiritual gifts?

### Apply It

Who is someone you need to love as Christ has loved you? How?

How can you show Christ's love to others at your place of work, at home, or in your neighborhood?

How do you need to be serving in your church?