



Sunday 3/17/2024 – Follow Me | Share and Serve

The next trait we are going to look at is actually given to us from Jesus himself in his last few moments with his disciples. This would be the last moments he would have here on earth, and he does something that they didn't expect to show them and to ultimately show us what it means to follow him even after he is no longer walking the earth.

John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 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.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. 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. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

There is a lot in the passage to unpack together today and I hope each of us will walk away with a great understanding of what Jesus is teaching us in this passage. Essentially the next area of study and trait is that Jesus followers are called to Share & Serve. But what does that look like and why did Jesus illustrate it to us by washing feet?

Jesus serving set an example.

This was huge for Jesus to do this. He was showing them a different way and that he was a different kind of savior, a savior that came to serve. And this example would be something that wouldn't just be this one-time event, but would carry on in their minds and into their hearts in their ministry days ahead. It wasn't about the fame, the recognition, or being first...it was all about exalting others and choosing to serve.

Jesus served regardless of the circumstances he was facing.



So not only has Jesus been busy in these last few moments, Jesus also had other people that were more deserving of his acts of kindness. But yet he still chooses to serve them, to love them, and to show them what it really means to serve. He served without excuse and without the need to be paid back for that service. He just served them.

We should serve others in the same way Jesus served us.

This was now their mandate, their calling, their mission moving forward. To love others, to care for others, to help others, and to serve others how he came and served them. And that is still our calling today.

Matthew 20:28 NIV

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Our goal in following Jesus is to go from...

Selfish -----> Selfless

What do I get> -----> What can I give?

What’s in it for me? -----> How can it help others?

How do we do this?

We serve with our presence.

We serve with our participation.

We serve with purpose.

Proverbs 11:25 NLT

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.