

Last Steps – Week 3 John 13

As Jesus' time on earth was winding down He had a few more important lessons to teach his disciples.

He knew He would be departing, and they would be left to carry on His teachings. Some people learn well just by sitting and listening, but others need a visual. Even more, some need practical examples.

Jesus used every method. He told stories, He spoke scripture, He gave others the opportunities to lead. He would even do something and then tell the disciples, that's how you should live your life.

In our time together today we are going to look at a very important lesson Jesus wanted to make sure His people learned.

If you have your Bible, Go to John 13

Context: John 1-12 covers a period of approx. 3 years. John 13-19 covers about 24-36 hours. Remember the Gospels are eye-witness accounts to Jesus' life. If we all watched the same thing, we would highlight different things, but it would all complement each other.

It's Passover season and it was time for the feast of Unleavened Bread. (Week-long celebration of the Angel of death passing over the homes of those covered by the blood of the Lamb)

Jesus and His followers are in an upper room of a home getting ready to eat together. Chapters 13-17 all about the upper room.

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke there is a huge focus on the Last Supper. John doesn't give a bunch of details about the meal, but of what happened next.

Lets stand in honor of the reading of Gods Word,

Read John 13.1-17 | Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. ⁴ So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. ⁵ Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you

don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." ¹⁰ "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "Doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. ¹⁶ "Truly I tell you; a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Pray

Let's take a few minutes and see what we can learn today.

13.1 – He loved his people to the end.

13.2 – Judas was soon going to betray Jesus. The enemy found fertile soil to use against God in Judas. (Judas' heart was not right with God.)

Something all of us must recognize within ourselves. **How's the soil of my soul?**

13.3 | Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. He had all authority.

13.4-5 | Jesus started washing everyone's feet. The foot washing wasn't the shocking part...They wore sandals. The servant of the home they entered would do this. So they were used to the act of foot washing.

It was who was doing it. The one who has all authority was the biggest servant of all.

Here is the message from Jesus...**Serving others is never beneath you.**

Listen, Jesus could have said: Fella's , I'm about to die, Time Is near, I want you to understand it is just a few hours away.

Hey guys I need you to come around me, pray for me, lay hands on me, lift me up, encourage me, Hey guys I need your help, I need some encouragement, I'm fearful, I'm afraid, come on guys I need a pep rally!

No! He did not focus on his crisis, but he was focused on serving others. That's the example Jesus left.

13.6-10 | Crazy Peter opens his big mouth again.

Even the disciples didn't always understand what Jesus was doing. This is where trust is built.

The reason Peter was like no way...Pride. **Pride will always kill what God is trying to do in your life.**

Peter likely felt like many of us would...Dont wash my feet, I don't deserve that.

Its vulnerable when you are at the receiving end of someone's kindness.

We spend so much of our lives doing things that we think are earning our worth.

So, when we don't have to do anything to receive someone's service...its awkward. Its pride!

Guys, why don't we ask for directions? It shows weakness...its pride.

Do you have a hard time letting God do something great in your life because you feel like you don't deserve it. Lay down your pride.

Do you have a hard time asking for help in your walk with Jesus, marriage, friendships? Lay down your pride.

If you are going to wait around until you feel like you do deserve it...it's never going to happen.

It takes humility to let someone serve you...especially when you know you don't deserve it.

This is grace!

Another message from Jesus in this example...**Choose humility over pride.**

Be willing to serve in the lowliest positions. Be Ready and willing to be the humblest servant.

Philippians 2.5-8 | ⁵ **Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.**

13.11 | Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him, and still washed his feet.

Serving others in not about who they are and do they deserve it.

Every person we meet is a God opportunity for us to love and serve.

When we have this mindset, everyday is full of potential miracles.

We must dip our hands into the bowl of serving others.

As we read about Jesus' example today, I wonder if there is someone God is putting on your heart. Who is someone that God is calling you to serve?

Action Step: Grab the car that was in your chair. We want you to write down the name of someone God is putting on your heart. If you know who that is, go ahead and write it in.

Prayer Team come lead us in a time of prayer. Megan Watterson and Greg Winget.

Maybe you invite them to join you this Easter and take them to lunch after.
Maybe you bring Easter to them and share what Easter means to you and your family.

The entire goal of serving or inviting or loving is always to help others experience Jesus. His goodness is too vast for us to keep to ourselves.

13.12-15 I Do just as I have done for you!

Church if the world is going to understand this kind of love that Jesus is all about, **we must step into sharing His story with others.**

This message is straight from Him.

God commands us and empowers us to be His witnesses.

Acts 1.8 I **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Why do we exist? To bring fame to His name!

We make God famous when we tell others about who He is and the good things He has done.

When people know Jesus, God's glory is known and shown (2 Corinthians 4:5-6).

When is the last time you shared what God has done in your life? Your Story Matters.

Action Step: Show Michael Shaefer Video

Your story can give others hope. God can turn our mess into a message!

Conclusion:

13.17 I Serving comes with a blessing. When we serve others, it ends in a blessing.

Greatness is in leastness.

If we serve others, we break the power of self-centeredness.

Illustration: Years ago, a movie called “Hoosiers” told the story of a small-town basketball team that miraculously made it to the state championship. During an intense game, the team’s coach sent a player from the bench into the game, but before going out on the court the boy, a devout Christian, knelt to pray.

And he continued to pray, delaying the game on the court. Finally, the coach leaned down and said, “Son, God wants you out on the court now.”

It’s time to get in the game or serving others.

Take some time to reflect on who God is and what God has done.

Take some time to ask Him whose feet He is calling you to wash and who He is calling you to share your story with this Easter.