

John 13:1-17 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To stretch our understanding of how great Jesus' love is towards us and to move us to follow in his example towards others.

Sermon Refresher: Jesus shocked his disciples by washing their feet. This was a practical necessity for hospitality at this time, but was such a low position of service that even only the lowest servants could be required to do it. Jesus draws their attention to the pattern he has set for them.

Icebreaker: What was something you bought only to realize it was bad? (e.g. food that had spoiled, clothing that was ripped, product that didn't have all the parts)

Transition: We wouldn't buy something that we knew was bad or broken. Yet, Jesus came to save us when we were broken and spoiled...not because we deserved it. Let's explore how Jesus loves us and how understanding this moves us to better love others around us.

Discussion

1. Read John 13:1. **Optional:** Compare John 13:1 with John [2:4](#), [7:6](#), [7:30](#), [8:20](#). What is implied in Jesus' assertion that his hour has come?
2. What is dangerous about basing our assurance that God loves us in the goodness of our circumstances?

Digging deeper (optional): Read [Romans 8:31-38](#). What is the relationship between Christ's love for us and our circumstances according to these verses?

3. Read John 13:3-10. Part of the challenge of these verse is grasping the emotional shock the disciples must have been experiencing. What would we be surprised to see boss' do? How is Jesus' service towards them an even greater act of humility?

John 12:42-43; 5:44 Sermon-Based Discussion

Brief aside: Peter's initial reluctance misses the need to be cleansed by Jesus' work on his behalf with emphasis on his death and resurrection. Peter's turn towards exuberance to be washed entirely misses that he has already been cleansed by faith in Christ. The point is that we all have need to turn to Christ to be cleansed, even on an ongoing basis, even after our initial conversion to Christianity. However, our ongoing repentance is not a reconversion every time.

4. Read John 13:2 and 13:10-11. What is shocking about the fact that Jesus washes Judas' feet?

Digging Deeper (Optional): Read [Romans 12:17-21](#). How are we able to love our enemies as Jesus modeled towards Judas?

5. Read John 13:12-17. Notice the pattern we are to follow.
 - Keith asked us the question: "Do you consider yourself a servant?" Is that how people would describe us?
 - Keith also emphasized that when I "wash my wife's feet," I wash my Lord's feet as we do so. As I "wash my kids' feet," I wash my Lord's feet as well. As I "wash my coworkers' feet," I wash my Lord's as well. Whose feet do we need to give attention to washing?
6. Just as when people were attracted to Christianity by seeing Christian volunteers stay and serve after Katrina even when government efforts were failing, people in Columbia will be attracted to Christ when they see us serve. How can we continue to grow in service as individuals and a church?

Prayer Time ideas:

- Confess the ways we as a church in America, in Columbia, and in our personal lives have failed to serve in likeness to Christ's example.
- Pray for change for us all to be better servants.

Passage for next Sunday

Dave is doing another sermon from John 13:1-17.