

Following Jesus in Real Life - Serve Like Jesus

John 13:12-17; Mark 10:45

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, 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 to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. - John 13:12-17

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45

Reflection Questions:

- In John 13:12, Jesus asks His disciples, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" — where in your own life have you received humble service from someone, and what did that act reveal to you about the nature of loving service?
- Jesus, described in John 13:13 as both Teacher and Lord, takes the role of a household servant. What assumptions do you carry about which tasks are "beneath you," and how does Jesus' example challenge them?
- In verse 16, Jesus states that a servant is not greater than his master. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to claim an exception for yourself from the kind of service Jesus modeled?
- Mark 10:45 says Jesus came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom. How does understanding that you have already been served at great cost change your motivation for serving others?
- Verse 17 ties blessing specifically to doing, not merely knowing. What act of service do you already know you should do but have been postponing — and what is actually holding you back?

Guided Prayer

Praise God for the ways He has already served us in Christ. Reflect on the greatest act of service: Jesus' death on the cross. Repent of the ways you avoid serving or believe service is beneath you. Ask God to help you to serve as He serves. Ask Him to help you to serve out of gratitude for what He has done (rather than any other motivation). Commit to serve when His Holy Spirit prompts you. Thank Him for the grace He has shown you in Christ.

In Jesus' name, Amen.