

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Feb 2016

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #15: The Full Extent Of His Love

INTRODUCTION

Who is that person in your family or circle of friends who has demonstrated selfless, tireless servanthood? How did they show it?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read John 13:1-21

1. It was customary for someone to wash the guests' feet when they entered from outside, but evidently none of the disciples had done that. What might we surmise about them from this?
2. What did Jesus know that His disciples were not fully aware of yet? Vv. 1,3
3. In light of that, how are Jesus' actions even more astounding? Phil 2:5-11; 1 Pet 5:5-6
4. Did Jesus wash Judas' feet? If so, how would he (& Jesus) have felt? Why does Jesus wash our feet, even though He knows we will sin (again)?
5. How does our understanding God's view of ourselves relate to our willingness to humble ourselves before others?
6. What is characteristic of Peter's response to Jesus' actions? How might you have reacted?
7. While Peter is taking the washing of his feet literally, what is the spiritual message Jesus is communicating in verses 8 and 10?
8. How does Jesus challenge their idea of what it means to be in the inner circle of the Messiah's followers? Luke 22:24-26
9. Later, after Judas left, Jesus gave them "a new commandment" Vv. 34-35 How is this a fitting summary of this chapter?
10. When someone demonstrates what it means to "wash your feet," how do you respond? Why is it sometimes difficult to *receive* from others?

APPLICATION

Who is Jesus calling you to show "the full extent of His love" this week in your home? At work? At church? What will you do in response to His call?

What a picture we have here – Jesus, the Son of God, is girded with a towel, a basin of water in His blessed hands, washing His disciples' feet! He wants us to serve in the same spirit. He taught us that greatness is always measured by service. There is no loving others without living for them....

The Lord gives His disciples "a new commandment" – to love one another. Discipleship is tested not by the creed you recite; not by the hymns you sing; not by the ritual you observe, but by the fact that you love one another. This is the final test of discipleship.

– Henrietta Mears, *What The Bible Is All About*, pp. 417-418