

Day Six

Jesus: Real, Relevant, Raw and Radical! It's Not My Job

Luke 22:24-27 (NLT) *“Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.”*

John 13:6-8 (NIV) *“He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, are you going to wash my feet?’ 7 Jesus replied, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’ 8 ‘No,’ said Peter, ‘you shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.’”*

“It’s not my job. It’s not my responsibility. I am not getting paid for this.” Some of us are quick to play the card of “not my responsibility.” Peter knows exactly the implication of Jesus washing his feet! He understands that the servant is not greater than the Master, and here is His Master washing his feet. He has a hard time with it and, at first, refuses to be served! Jesus makes a powerful statement to Peter, to the point where He says Peter, “If you don’t want to serve, you need to get out because my Kingdom is built on the very foundation of serving others!”

The Bible does not tell us who was arguing about being the greatest, but I have a sneaky suspicion who was in the middle of the conversation. Peter is always the first to speak up, and it is rarely, except for a few occasions, great wisdom. When you read the account of the Last Supper in the Book of Luke, you can see that Luke immediately writes about Jesus’ warning to Peter about being sifted like wheat. **Luke 22:31-33(NLT)** *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.’ 33 Peter said, ‘Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.’”*

John 13:1 (MSG) *“Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.”* Notice the timing of Jesus serving the disciples. He is about to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. The holiest act of service, laying down His life for others. Yet even then His focus is on serving others. He could’ve said, “Wait a minute here. I am about to be nailed to a cross for all of you and I have to wash your feet! That is not my job. I am Jesus. I go to the front of the line. As a matter of fact, I don’t stand in lines.” The timing of Jesus serving, as well as who He is serving, is profound.

John 13:2 (NIV) *“The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.”* I must admit this is a tough one. Jesus washes all of His disciples’ feet, and that included Judas Iscariot, His betrayer. We have a tough enough time serving people we actually like, but Jesus sets the bar pretty high. He serves Judas who has already capitulated to Satan’s deception and betrayed Him. This is someone who has walked with Jesus, shared life with Him, saw the miracles, and the opening of the blind eyes and deaf ears. Judas saw Jesus call Lazarus from the grave, and yet, sold Him for 30 pieces of silver. Still Jesus stoops down and washes and dries his feet. The ability to serve selflessly like that, regardless of who we serve, comes from only one place.

John 13:3 (NIV) *“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.”* Jesus is able to do anything and everything because Jesus knows Who He is. The problem with some of the church today is that the little authority that we get goes straight to our heads because we really don’t know who we are. So, we have to prove to others who we are. **Jesus had nothing to prove, nothing to lose and nothing to hide!** He knew the measure of His authority, He knew where He came from, and He knew where He was going! When you know who you are, you don’t have to show off who you are. Because you know that you are not defined by a job or a title or even what your enemy thinks of you. True serving can only be done by those who know who they are and are secure in who God has made them!

If we can grasp this, it will revolutionize not only our lives, but I believe we will see a spiritual awakening. Imagine with me a church where people are not interested in titles or positions. Imagine a church where the goal is more important than the role. Imagine a church where all of us begin to serve one another without making demands of being served in return. Imagine a church where we have nothing to prove, nothing to lose and nothing to hide! Imagine a church where nobody is jockeying for position and lording over people, but are lovingly serving one another.

Imagine a place where we pick up our basin and our towel and do what Jesus did. Imagine a church where there is no one saying, “It’s not my job...” Imagine a church where we carry the load together. Imagine a church where people are so excited about serving that there is an atmosphere of anticipation. Imagine with me a church full of selfless people who only have one desire, and that is to serve. Serving, not for selfish glory or pats on the back, but because they are so grateful for what God has done in their lives that they cannot help themselves.

Imagine those people being unleashed on a self-absorbed society who have lost their God-given identity and are so confused about who and what they are. Imagine now

these servant hearts going into the world and caring and sharing and loving, not by the words they speak, but by the action they take.

Matthew 20:28 (NLT) “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

How do you know you have a servant’s heart? The only difference between having a servant’s heart and not having one is the placement of the towel. You can use the towel as a napkin around your neck to serve yourself, or you can use it as a towel around your waist to serve others. The choice of where you place it is yours! Feed me, serve me, or I will serve you!

Within a twenty-four-hour period, we see the Bible refer to two basins. ***Matthew 27:24(MSG) “When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was imminent, he took a basin of water and washed his hands in full sight of the crowd, saying, ‘I’m washing my hands of responsibility for this man’s death. From now on, it’s in your hands. You’re judge and jury.’”*** In a twenty-four-hour period, we see the difference between courageous servant leadership and political self-preservation leadership. Pilate says, “I am not responsible. I am washing my hands from this responsibility because I really don’t know who I am. I am more afraid of what the people will do than what I know is right to do!” Jesus, on the other hand, knowing who He is and where He came from and where He is going, picks up the basin and washes the feet of those who needed to wash His feet!

Everything in our culture is about self-absorption and being served rather than serving. Make a decision today to operate according to Kingdom Culture and find a place or a person to serve. Which basin are you picking up, the basin of service or the basin of non-responsibility?

Prayer:

- **Ask the Lord to empower you to serve, even serving those who oppose you.**
- **Pray that your focus will be on others instead of just yourself.**
- **Pray that your security is found in Jesus and in Him alone.**
- **Ask that you will be filled with the Spirit of Jesus rather than operate with the attitude of Pilate.**