

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week of *The Unexpected Messiah* series brings us to John chapters twelve and thirteen as Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final time before His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Today Pastor Don shows us how Jesus demonstrated His love for the disciples through an extreme act of service as He begins His final instructions to them, so to get your group's conversation started let everyone share about a time when they had to say goodbye to someone due to a family move, job change, or maybe beginning a new school - what was the situation and what happened?

BIG THOUGHT

When Jesus acts out an example of servitude, He shows us that greatness lies in being the servant of many - and that He expects us to follow His example.

1. Read John 13:1-3. What stands out to you more in these verses - that Jesus knew the time had come for Him to sacrifice Himself? That He wanted to show His love to the disciples to the very last day? That the devil himself was prompting Judas? That Jesus was confident He would be returning to God? Something else?
2. Now read v. 4-5. What did Jesus get up and do without saying a word? Because of the dusty and dirty streets of the villages, typically a household servant (or younger family member) would have taken care of this - how do you think you would have felt to watch Jesus take on such a menial task? Is it more difficult for you to serve others or to be served by others? Explain.

3. Read v. 6-11. How does Peter respond to Jesus' actions? How does Jesus try to correct Peter's misunderstanding in v. 8-10? And how does v. 11 answer the question of whether Judas ever believed that Jesus was God's Son (see Matt. 16:15-17 for a comparison)?
4. Now read v. 12-15. Sum up Jesus' explanation of His foot-washing in your own words. What tasks do you currently perform that feel most like "washing feet" to you? How would you describe your attitude toward doing them? Explain.
5. Read v. 16-18. Why do you think Jesus reiterates His point again? And what does He promise to those who obey His teaching? (v. 17) Who in your life has served you in this way? Share about him or her with the group if you can...

Take it Further

Take time to ask God to show you how well you serve others, and then ask Him to help you be aware of ways you can model Jesus' humility toward those with whom you live and work.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: 1 Peter 4:10
Day 2: Matthew 23:11
Day 3: Philippians 2:4

Day 4: Mark 9:35
Day 5: 1 John 3:18
Day 6: Galatians 6:2

Memory Verse: John 13:14



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