



Discussion Questions Set #1

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." (John 13:14-16)

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:43-45).

In sermon, I suggested that Jesus teaches here that perhaps the most profound way we can serve God is by serving others. Jesus is likely also revealing His own subjection to the Father in this passage again, suggesting that in this act, we see what obedience and submission to God look like in a practical sense.

1. Do you believe that, in general, Christians view the service of others a significantly as this text suggests? Why or who not?
2. What do these texts and Christ's example reveal to us about the aspiration for greatness in Christ's Kingdom?
3. We know that the apostle Peter objects to Jesus washing his feet, but why do you think that neither he nor any of the other disciples offer to take over from Jesus or serve Christ in this way?
4. Why might it be easier to claim service of God than it might be to engage in active service of others?
5. Discuss what might develop if a follower of Jesus aims to serve God but ignores the service of others.
6. What might happen if a follower of Jesus serves others without understanding that, through this service, they are also serving God?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." (John 13:1-5)

In sermon, I suggested that John includes this preface to the act of Jesus washing His disciples' feet to show that this act flows out of three sources: Christ's love, Christ's power and authority, and Christ's identity.

1. Discuss what this act shows us about Christ's love.
2. Discuss what this act shows us about Christ's power and authority. Power dynamics are a key concern in our culture, so what might this show us about our tendency to misunderstand and misapply ideas of power and authority in our world?
3. Discuss what this act shows us about Christ's identity. Why is it significant that service of others – even demeaning service of others – is a core aspect of Christ's nature and identity?

Discussion Questions Set #3

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)

"No one can ever say they're humble. All they could say is that they're a proud person pursuing humility by the grace of God". (C.J. Mahaney, *Humility*)

Our passage presents to us a wonderful picture of what biblical humility looks like. Humility looks like the Son of God/Son of Man kneeling at His followers' dirty feet, washing them in an intimate way.

1. Do you think our common understanding of humility in the church aligns with this example or might it stop somehow short of a "washing feet" kind of humility?
2. How might an "in-process" understanding of humility assist us as followers of Jesus? How might a fully realized understanding of humility affect us?