

Following Jesus' Example – Week 2 – 8-11-24 – Pastor Bill

1. Is there a meal that is memorable for you? What made it memorable?
2. Is there a time you can remember being humbled or embarrassed? What happened?

John 13:1-17 - 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. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ 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.

3. Why do you think that John emphasized how much Jesus loved his disciples here in verse 1?
4. The Passover meal was an annual festival to remember how God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt. The bread and wine symbolized the affliction, freedom and blessings they had experienced. What afflictions have you experienced in life?
5. What blessings have you experienced in life?
6. How do you intentionally remember how God has been with you through the bad times and the good times?
7. What do you think was going through the disciples' minds when Jesus began washing their feet?

⁶ 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." ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

8. Why do you think that Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet?
9. Why do you think he had such a quick change of heart?
10. Jesus told Peter that he didn't need a bath, just to have his feet washed. Pastor Bill correlated this to how we are 'clean' and righteous when we receive Christ's forgiveness, but we still need to confess our sins just as Peter needed his feet washed. What are your thoughts about this comparison?
11. What would the equivalent of washing someone's feet be in our culture today?
12. When has someone else "washed your feet" or served you in a really big way?
13. When have you served someone in a big way?
14. Pastor Bill said that we were made, saved, and gifted to serve. What do you think that you were made for?
15. How has God gifted you to serve?
16. Pastor Bill said that "Forgiven People, Forgive People, and give People Life". Who have you had to forgive?
17. Who has forgiven you?
18. Who do you still need to forgive? Why should you forgive them?
19. Who in your life is a Faith Building Friendship?
20. Who are you a Faith Building Friend to?
21. How can you "Take up the towel" this week?