



Week Three

Opening Praying

God, thank you for your love. We know you are here looking to connect with us. Help us to grow more aware of you and to gain a better understanding of who you are. Amen.

Talk It Over

Throughout this series we are looking at seismic events or events of enormous proportions. More specifically, we are looking at some seismic moments in the life of Jesus that will impact, effect, and possibly change the way we understand God.

This week we looked at Jesus' last night on earth — an event known as The Last Supper. The events of this evening are documented in the Bible and have become an integral part of the church. For example, The Last Supper is where Jesus instituted the practice of communion. In addition, the Bible tells us that after dinner Jesus took the time to wash the feet of his disciples.

Based on cultural norms of the time and the dirty realities of what it would mean exactly to wash someone's feet in this time period of history, this action was a powerful statement about the type of person, friend, and leader Jesus was. It was impossible to stoop any lower than washing another person's feet. And yet, Jesus did that exact thing.

- What is the grossest job you've ever done?
- Is there a job someone couldn't pay you enough to do?
- Have you ever struggled with being asked to do a job you felt was beneath you? Share that story with us.

Read John 13:4-5 (NLT) and John 13:12-17 (NLT)

Let's consider three ways we can respond to this story:

1. Head: Decide to follow the first servant-leader the world ever knew.

What Jesus is saying and doing flies in the face of every notion of status and power. In a world that teaches us to care and protect our status at all cost, Jesus doesn't really seem to care what other people thought of him.

- Do you know anyone who is a good servant-leader? Tell us about the habits and attitudes that person displays.
- Have you ever said 'no' to a particular task or wrestled with saying 'no' to a particular task because you felt the task was beneath you? Tell us about that story and process.
- Is there an area in your life where you care about your status more than God may want you to? Tell us about where you are in the process, why you think this is an issue for you, and how you hope to grow.
- What does Jesus' example stir in you? How does this play out in your story?

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2. Heart: Seek every opportunity to humbly serve others.

When and if we serve others with an internal or external attitude that says, “what I’m doing is beneath me or I am totally doing you a solid by serving you”, we are not walking in humility. Humility is really a matter of the heart. If we are seeking acknowledgement, thanks, or approval, we are really just serving so that we can gain. But when our heart is in the right place, we seek opportunities to serve people so that we can show love to others.

- Have you ever struggled with serving to gain love, approval, acknowledgment, or appreciation? Tell us about that story and what you learned.
- In your own words, how would you describe someone who is down to earth?
- Do you know someone who is good at serving others for the sake of giving others love? Tell us about the habits and attitudes that person displays.

3. Hands: Leverage your service to demonstrate Jesus’ love for a world in need.

Read John 13:34-35 NLT and Matthew 20:26-28 (Voice)

Humble service is infectious and it’s a key component to Jesus’ plan to spread the message about his love.

- Jesus wants us to show others who he is through our love, but we can get easily get lost on thinking our faith is about something different. What are some the ways you try to prove your faith?
- Describe a time someone treated you in a way that left you feeling loved, respected, or cared for?
- Consider the various areas of life you interact with people — your home, work, community, neighborhood, etc. Looking at those various areas, what are some ways you know you can grow in your capacity to show God’s love to others.

Closing Prayer

God, you know our hearts and our struggles. Help us to heal, grow, and change. Help us to soften our hearts to you and to walk in deeper humility. We want to be the kind of people who show your love to others. Amen.