

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 45

Lesson Title: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Take Home Point: Jesus served us so we can serve others.

Warm-Up:

Imagine that you own a business that involves a significant customer service function. You find the people with the attitude you desire, then you pay for them to get extensive training so they can do the right job at the right time in customer service. In fact, you are so intent on ensuring they provide your desired level of service that you are part of the training and you show them specifically how you want them to do it. When this is done, imagine those same employees saying, "Thank you so much for selecting us and preparing us to be your customer service representatives. We are very grateful and will remain loyal to you for your terrific investment. But we really don't want to serve others. We just want to serve each other and talk about how good you've been to us." How would you react?

Read: John 13:1-20

Observation (What happened?):

What lesson was Jesus teaching his disciples?

What would be the consequence of the disciples doing what Jesus told them?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that Jesus' actions showed the disciples the full extent of his love?

What do you think the foot washing represents to us today?

Insight:

When my children were little, they would find me doing something and would say, "What can I do to help you, Daddy?" What is it that makes young children want to help their parents around the house? They like to feel like they are old enough or big enough or strong enough to help a grownup. They like to make mom or dad happy. They like to feel that they made a contribution to the family's welfare. These are good reasons to help. A young child tends to serve so selflessly and effortlessly. So what happens as we grow up? We tend to become more self-centered in how we relate to other people, and selfish with our possessions. Jesus knew this, so one of the very last things he did on earth with his disciples was teach them once more about his kind of service. There are two main reasons why the Lord commands us to serve others. One is for others to see an example of Jesus and be drawn to him. The other reason is for us to put Jesus and others first in the use of our time and resources. He wants us to feel like we are "grown up" enough to be part of God's work; that we enjoy making another person happy; that we have made a contribution to the family of God.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

List the names of all the people you served in any way this week and how you served them.

Pray for the children in your small group to remain humble and serve others as they grow up.

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