



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Character Shapers Series, Lesson 52

**Lesson Title:** Showing Service

**Take Home Point:** Don't miss your chance to serve others for Jesus' sake.

#### **Warm-Up:**

The idea of setting aside our pride and serving someone else is not encouraged by most cultures, not really. For example, something happens to many people when they get behind the wheel of a car. Given the definition of character as "what a person does when no one is looking," the anonymity of being in an automobile typically brings out a driver's true character. What may be a veneer of politeness when face to face with another person is frequently stripped away on city streets and highways. The road rage we hear about is only the extreme example of an attitude that says, "ME FIRST!" More common is a general lack of consideration toward others on the road that betrays a mindset that is anything but servant oriented. What seems like rudeness actually reveals a self-absorbed, selfish person.

**Read:** John 13:1-17; Colossians 3:23-24

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

According to John 13:1, what was Jesus showing his disciples?

Whom do we really serve in all we do?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Why do you think Jesus used foot washing to demonstrate his principle of humble service?

What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples to wash one another's feet?

#### **Insight:**

Throughout his life, Jesus emphasized living in an attitude of service to others, as shown in verses such as Matthew 20:25-28 and 23:11-12, Mark 10:43-45, and John 12:23-26. And notice John 13:3 in today's reading. He offered his most humble service even as he understood the full power of God had been given to him. The most significant passage regarding his own choice of serving others is found in Philippians 2:5-8: *"Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant...He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death."* Of course, the pinnacle of his loving service is his taking our place on the cross. Why is being a servant to others so important for us, too? We serve others because Jesus served us. It's why he came. Our lives of service help point to Jesus as our Lord and a loving Savior to all. We demonstrate God's compassion, as we are compassionate to others. And a servant attitude is also part of vanquishing our pride that so easily gets in the way of following Jesus.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

Whom do you serve in all you do? How do you know?

Who around you needs you to serve them this week? How can you serve them?

Kingdom Quest year 2