

## Following Christ's Example John 13:1-17

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**Take-home truth:** Jesus asks all believers to observe His example of humble service and imitate that pattern as we follow Him.

What does that mean?

### **BECOMING A SERVANT MEANS MAKING CHOICES MOTIVATED BY LOVE.**

*Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper.  
John 13:1-4a (English Standard Version)*

### **BECOMING A SERVANT MEANS SETTING ASIDE POWER AND POSITION TO HUMBLY SERVE.**

*He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."  
John 4b-11 (ESV)*

*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. <sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.  
Philippians 2:3-8 (New Living Translation)*

Humility = voluntarily putting aside your own position or power to serve others out of awareness of and obedience to God.

*“. . . You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.” Acts 20:34 (New International Version)*

### **BECOMING A SERVANT MEANS OBSERVING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF SERVICE AND IMITATING THAT PATTERN.**

*When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:12-17 (ESV)*

*Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Philippians 3:16 (NIV)*