

The Power of Pure Serving
The B.L.E.S.S. Series – John 13:1-17
May 31, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17

¹ 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. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ 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, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ 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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ 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." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² 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?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

MAIN THEME

In a self-centered world, genuine service stands out. People are often guarded, skeptical, and hurting. But when someone truly serves without expecting anything in return, it gets attention.



That's exactly what Jesus did in the Upper Room. The disciples were stunned to see their Teacher, Master, and Savior kneeling on the floor with a towel wrapped around his waist, washing dirty feet. This task was normally reserved for the lowest servant in the household. Yet Jesus willingly humbled himself to serve others—even Judas, the one who would betray him.

Jesus wasn't simply performing an act of kindness. He was giving his followers an example to imitate. True greatness in the kingdom of God is found in humility, sacrifice, and love for others.

The foot washing also pointed to something much deeper. Jesus used service to prepare hearts for the gospel. The towel pointed forward to the cross, where Christ would ultimately give his life for sinners. Service softens hearts, builds trust, and creates opportunities for spiritual conversations.

Jesus teaches us that serving is not optional for believers. It is a Christ-like act. And when we serve others with genuine love, God often uses it to open doors, change lives, and even bring joy to our own hearts.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Serving Gets People's Attention

John 13:4–8; Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:3–4

- Why were the disciples so shocked by what Jesus did?
- Why does humble service stand out so much in today's culture?
- What are some simple ways you can serve people in your everyday life?
- When have you seen an act of kindness deeply impact someone?

2. Serving Opens the Door to the Gospel

John 13:8–10; Mark 10:45; Galatians 5:13

- How did Jesus use this moment to point toward the gospel?
- Why does service often soften people's hearts?
- How can serving create opportunities for spiritual conversations?
- Who in your life might be more open to hearing about Christ if they first experience genuine care?

3. Serving Brings Joy

John 13:17; Acts 20:35; Hebrews 6:10



- What promise does Jesus give in verse 17?
- Why do you think serving others brings joy?
- What gifts or abilities has God given you that could bless others?
- How have you personally experienced joy through serving?

4. Pure Service Is a Christ-Like Act

John 13:12–15; Philippians 2:5–8; 1 Peter 4:10

- What example did Jesus leave for his followers?
- Why is humility essential for serving well?
- What keeps people from serving others sacrificially?
- How can serving help us become more like Christ?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the example of Jesus, who humbled himself to serve others with love and compassion. Forgive us for the times we become selfish, distracted, or unwilling to care for people around us. Teach us to serve with humility and joy. Help us to notice the needs of others and respond with genuine love. Use our acts of service to point people toward the hope of the gospel. Make us more like Jesus in the way we love, give, and care for others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Mark 10:45 — Jesus came to serve and give his life
- Philippians 2:3–8 — The humility of Christ
- Galatians 5:13 — Serve one another through love
- Hebrews 6:10 — God sees faithful service
- 1 Peter 4:10 — Use your gifts to serve others

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

B.L.E.S.S. — Share Your Story

