



## PEOPLE OF THE TOWEL

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

Jesus took the posture of a servant by washing His disciples' feet. This revolutionary act reveals *why* He came and *what* He sends His disciples to do.

What stood out to you from Sunday's text and sermon?

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### READ THE TEXT: John 13.1-17

<sup>1</sup>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. 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."

<sup>12</sup>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.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A theologian noted, *"There is no instance in either Jewish or Greco-Roman sources of a superior washing the feet of an inferior"*. That Jesus — God the Son — dressed as a servant and knelt and washed His disciples' feet was nothing short of revolutionary. Have you ever witnessed someone in a prominent position humbly serve someone under them?
2. In what ways has and does Jesus serve Christians and the Church?
3. Jesus came *not to be served but to serve* (Matt. 20:28). Our prideful tendency is *not to serve but seek to be served*. Do you recognize that proclivity in yourself? How so?
4. The heart of Jesus' command is this: *humility and helpfulness toward brothers and sisters in Christ*. Would you characterize the church this way? Why or why not? What are some ways "foot-washing" (humble service) looks like in the family of faith?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. The Apostle Paul sees servanthood as a means of evangelism for the sake of the gospel. How could Christians (in general) and you (in particular) be servants in such a way that creates evangelistic opportunities?

## CONCLUSION

As those transformed by the gospel — empowered to accomplish all that Christ has entrusted to us as disciples — our posture as servants in the Church and world will be revolutionary to those around us, just as it was to the first disciples. Heed the command of Jesus when He declares, *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you* (13:15).

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of what this text has impressed upon you. Take some time to discern how you might serve as individuals and as a group.
- The Lead Team sense the Lord calling Central to plant two local campuses this year (Lake Errock and Promontory). They want your involvement in this exploration by inviting your participation at a Vision Night on Sunday, April 23. Between now and then, we ask for you to commit this to prayer as individuals and as a Life Group.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

