



Love Serves

1 John 4:8 tells us that “God is Love.” Throughout this series we are focused on how love is a verb and verbs are action words; we put our love into action, love does things. This weekend we look at the idea that “love serves” by looking at what Jesus did on the night before he dies on the cross. In his final hours with his disciples, Jesus establishes a pattern for people of all generations to follow.

Ice Breaker

What daily chores do you do your best to avoid?

Opening Question

What stood out to you from the weekend message? Was there a scripture, principle, or action step that has stuck with you?

Scripture

Read John 13:1-2

In this verse, we read that ***Jesus knew*** what was to take place over the next several hours. The verse goes on to say that Jesus now showed them the full extent of his love. Think in terms of friends, families, strangers, what does it mean to show them the full extent of your love?

Jesus also knew he was about to be betrayed by Judas and yet love still served him.

Serving isn't about what the other person deserves

If we are not careful we can fall into the trap that serving is something people earn from you. To put it another way, serving = a system of obligation. Sometimes it seems as if it is easier to do random acts of kindness or service for people who are total strangers to us. Why would that be the case? Who do you find it easier to serve, people you know or strangers?

Read John 13:3-5

This passage demonstrates Jesus taking on the lowest of tasks to serve his disciples. As their teacher, it would not have been expected of him to do the foot washing. What was it that Jesus wanted his disciples then and us today to learn from this example? Has there ever been a time you served someone in a way that you thought was beneath you? What did you learn from that experience?

Serving can be most impactful when it's commonplace

Shane Claiborne said "Everybody wants a revolution, but no one wants to do the dishes." How does this tie into commonplace serving? What is important to learn from serving in common ordinary ways?

Read John 13:12-14

Why did Jesus ask "do you understand what I have done?" and what did he want the disciples to learn?

In the 21st century we no longer wash people's feet but what are ways we can serve that would be equivalent to washing person's feet? What can we learn from Jesus and his example of washing feet?

Read John 13:15-17

The two key words focused on from this passage in the message were: Example and Blessed. When we serve not only are we blessed but God also promises to bless us. Jesus also gave us the example on how to serve. We don't have to wash feet but that is the example of how to serve.

When we serve, we make the God who is love visible.

What small acts (25 cents) can you do this week to make the love of God visible? When can you start 😊?

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Pray