

**DISCIPLE—3**  
**A DISCIPLE WASHES FEET**

I'm guessing some of you are going to be able to relate to me on this, but it, you know, if I'm going to do something, I want to be the best that I can.

It's like the story of the guy in this large organization, who was sweeping one night, and all of a sudden, he finds a lamp and a genie. I know, it's crazy, and here is this genie, says, "You've got three wishes." So the guy stops and thinks about it, says, "You know what? I want to be somebody important in this organization, somebody that people will recognize." Poof! All of a sudden, he's in this office, middle management. He's like, "Oh, now this is, this is good." So, he's like, "Okay, genie, I know my second wish. I want to be more important than this, right? Not only recognize me, but I want to make some major decisions in this organization." Poof! He's got the sweet suit on. He's got these sweet digs in his office, and he's like, "Man, this is it." Already knowing what his third wish is, he looks and Genie says, "Okay." "My third wish, I want to be the most important person in this organization. I want to be the greatest." Poof! He finds himself with a broom in hand, sweeping the halls.

*The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Matt 23:11-12*

Now, that just flies in the face of everything we know in our culture.

In Luke, we found out that they are having a discussion, actually an argument. Guess what they are arguing about. Yes, who is the greatest!

**A DISCIPLE OF JESUS WASHES FEET.**

*The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. John 13:2-4*

**Jesus knew! (Who he had around Him, What, When, Where, Why, How)**

**You would have thought Jesus would have brought a little more attention to the upcoming details!**

Now, in First Century Jewish culture, other people that would wear similar type of clothing, a towel, some kind of garment that they could use to clean, were slaves, servants. So, here's Jesus putting on a towel in such a way as a slave would do, and the disciples are in the room thinking, "What is going on?" Jesus was doing this outward reminder of an inward truth that "I am here to serve."

How about you? You and me? Why are we here at Cross Community?

Are you here to serve, or are you here to be served? Be honest.

Are you here to really be a part of what God is doing in people's lives every week here at Cross, or is it sort of a spiritual consumer idea where you get in, sing a few songs, toss some money in the plate, you listen to the message, and then you are on with life? Or are you more of a spiritual contributor that when that computer goes off and the things that God shares in your heart, you begin to serve those around you. You begin to have the heart of Christ to serve.

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:5

Now, remember the basin. We are going to come back to that.

To understand the immensity of what it meant to wash feet, you sort of have to understand this task in its context.

Now, we are used to paved roads and concrete and sidewalks. In First Century Palestine, all the roads leading into Jerusalem were just dirt roads and, we are talking, you know, inches of dust and dirt if it's dry.

In First Century Jewish culture, some hosts would wash the feet of those guests, though, that would come in, and they would do it for high, it would be a very high source of honor and a show of love to those people in respect.

The task would be given to, not the master of the house, definitely not. Not a rabbi or a teacher, as Jesus was, definitely not a student of a rabbi or a teacher, or some family member. They wouldn't even give this task to a servant that was of Jewish origin. Now, they would give this task to a Gentile servant or a foreign servant. So, they would give it to the lowest of the low.

So, there's Jesus taking off His outer clothing, grabbing a towel, pouring water into a basin and kneeling down at the disciples' feet. Now, can you feel the tension in the room?

The disciples know what this task is and who usually performs this task, and here's the Son of God, their Lord, their Rabbi, kneeling down to wash their feet. And, you can sense the struggle in it when He is kneeling down to Peter, and Peter looks at Him, and asks the question, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Most people would be like, "... "Peter, you know, they should have washed Jesus' feet."

Think about it in context. This is not a task that they would ever even consider doing.

I don't even think it crossed Peter's mind.

I think if Peter would have even thought that this would have been pleasing to Jesus, he would have washed His feet.

Peter gets a bad rap, but he was passionate about Jesus and about the things of his Rabbi. He loved Jesus so much, I think that was why he was blown away when Jesus knelt down.

It wouldn't have even crossed his mind to wash his feet, but you see, a disciple of Jesus washes feet.

Now, take that principle and plug it into the contents of your life. How is God asking you to serve others?

How can you be sure that you have the same heart as Jesus did on that night when He washed the disciples feet?

Here's three questions that you can ask yourself that will help you discover if you have the same heart that Christ did when He served.

### **The first question is, what is your motivation?**

Here's some things that were not Jesus' motivation: pride, self-righteous attitude, you know, like the Pharisees that says, "Hey, everybody. Look what I'm doing. Look at the sacrifice I'm making."

Here are some things that motivated Jesus: love and compassion. Jesus loved those guys in that room more than anything.

The kind of compassion that comes from the inside out, where you can't help but act?

What is really your motivation? Do you see things the way that Christ does? Or are you just doing a task?

## **The second question you have to ask yourself is, what is the need in front of you?**

Not what you are planning to do next week, or the volunteering you signed up for, the mission trip or those things.

That is so important. Jesus had a huge thing coming up. In two days, Jesus knew that He was going to suffer like no other and be crucified.

I mean, this is the greatest act of service and humility that has ever been seen in the world, and yet, in the middle of that kind of knowledge, He looks at the need in front of Him.

When we talked about it, these guys' feet were, they were nasty, and they are all sitting together at this dinner table that is low and they are right there, and here's Jesus taking the most simple and low task, and doing it.

What is the need in front of you right now? Name it and do it.

## **Third question is, what do you have to give?**

Remember Peter and what he went through in that upper room during the foot washing, and then later, we find him preaching that Jesus has risen from the dead, that He is the Messiah.

We see him walking in Jerusalem, and he's going to the temple during an hour of prayer, and he sees a beggar on the side of the road. And the beggar is asking him for money, and he hasn't walked since was born, and Peter looks at him, and here is what he says.

*Acts 3:6, he says, "Silver and gold I do not have," and help me out with this. "But what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*

Did you catch that? "What I have, I give to you."

What do you have to give? Is it just time? An ear to listen to someone, their problems? Or be there for someone? Is it resources that others don't have? A spare room? What is it that you have to give?

You know, when Jesus washed the disciples feet, you have to realize, this is not some task that he was trained to do. It wasn't a skill given to Him by God. He wasn't gifted in foot washing. This was the task that fit the need at hand. What do you have to give?

**What is our motivation?**... if we really understand what it means to be a disciple who washes feet, to really understand that in the context of where we live. We could really affect the people around us.

Do you & I have that kind of heart?

**What's right in front of you?** Somebody's got to share what God wants to do, what it means to be a servant,

Somebody's got to do it.

When you have love and compassion for people the way Jesus did, when you really get that peace, and you answer that question, you are going to know the need right in front of you. You don't care what the task is.

You are going to do it, and you are going to give whatever it is you have to give

Remember the basin that Jesus used to wash the disciples feet? Another time, we hear about a basin of water is when Jesus is standing condemned before a crowd and before a guy named Pontius Pilate. And, they are screaming, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him. Crucify Him." Pontius Pilate could find no fault in him, but instead of doing something, he does nothing, and he takes a basin of water and he dips his hands in, and says, "I have nothing to do with it."

Right now, we all have a basin of water in front of us.

You have a basin of water in front of you, and you've got two choices.

One is, you can take the basin of water and say, "You know what? I wash my hands of this. I don't have anything to do with it. I don't want to have anything to do with this kind of being a disciple and what that means. I don't want to have anything to do with that, and you wash your hands."

Or, you can take that basin of water, and you can kneel down and wash feet.

You can serve just like Jesus did

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
Mark 10:45