

## **The Blessed Life – 4**

### **The Heart of Serving**

How do you live a blessed life? Where do you find a blessed life at? What is it about living the life of blessing? I want to talk for a few minutes about this power and heart to serve, the heart of serving. The power behind a heart to serve.

I want to read a couple of Scriptures to you. I just love this moment in the life of Christ that He has with His disciples and He has with the people that He is doing life with. All of us know that during this timing in the Book of John, John Chapter 13; this is a significant time. There are some things that are getting ready to happen after this, that changed the world. It's changed all of our lives. John, Chapter 13 says in verse 3:

*John 13:3-16 <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean. <sup>12</sup>When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup>"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

John, Chapter 13, is a constant reminder to me about what it's all about. There are two things that I think is so interesting about this chapter.

#### **1.) The first one is the context of what's happening within His team.**

You may know this, His team was having a hard time getting along. There was a little bit of jealousy, a little bit of ego, a little bit of competition.

So, there was this whole shifting and positioning in His disciples. Well eventually, they just got upset with each other. There was a little bit of bickering, a little bit of arguing. In the middle of this context of what's happening here in John Chapter 13; Jesus walks into all of this, and He knows that it's happening.

Have you ever been in a room and you felt it was intense and you had no reason why? You just kind of walk up and go, "What's up? How you all doing? What's going on?" Okay, did I miss something?

All of the disciples had walked by that evening, a towel and a basin. They all had walked by it.

Because what happened is, you know, in culture it was proper to make sure you washed your feet before you would sit down for dinner. And a lot of times, if you hosted a meal, there would be a servant there that could take care of it for you. No Designated servant. The owner wasn't there! In this case, it was just kind of them.

So, when they started filing into the meeting, they saw that and thought, "Well, I think somebody else, I'm not doing that, I'm not washing Thomas' feet, all he does is doubt. Peter's got a temper issue, he ought to wash everybody's feet. I ain't washing nobody's feet!" So, when they walked by, there was that little hit, that little check that said, serve!

Maybe some of those disciples that nobody knows their name, like let Thaddeus do it, let Bartholomew, who is he? There's not a book named Bartholomew, he's not going to be in the who's who! He's not going to make the big list!

So, they all walked by. So Jesus walks in, everybody's got dirty feet! And the context of the intensity and the competition and the offense that was going on in that room. That's amazing that Jesus said, Guys, I will do it! I will serve!

**2.) Then, the Second thing that I think is incredible about this chapter is the timing.**

They are going to be responsible for telling the story and sharing the love of God to all kinds of people around the world. So you know, this is the last thing He is going to talk to them about, this is going to be one of the last moments. So, the timing of Jesus going to the Cross several hours that He takes this time to give this example, to let them know what it's all about in those last hours. That boys, if you don't get this, I don't know if you are going to get anything.

**Jesus separated the difference between knowing and doing. / Serving leads to the path of blessing.**

## **TWO CRITICAL LESSONS JESUS WAS TEACHING**

### **1. AWARENESS / 2. TIMING**

#### **THE PATH TO BLESSING**

- 1. If you don't learn to serve in secret you won't serve in public.**
- 2. If you don't learn how to learn, love, and serve the house of God, then you won't be able to be used by God.**
- 3. If you don't learn how to serve in the insignificant, in the small, in the areas no one else wants to; then how can you serve anywhere else?**
- 4. The cause of Christ goes forward through the heart of serving.**

I want you to know, that if you don't understand the heart of serving, you won't live a blessed life.

How could you ever be a decent husband / wife, if you don't understand the power of serving?

How could you ever be a good father / mother?

How could I ever operate in leadership that is Jesus-style driven if I didn't understand the passion to serve?

How could I ever build a church, or be a volunteer, or be a part of a Life group, or help people get connected to the cause of Christ, if I didn't understand that it was all about serving?

### **HOW IS YOUR HEART TO SERVE?**

Is it beating for the cause of Christ? How is your heart to serve? Is it beating for others? Is it beating for the cause of Christ? Is that what it's all about?

*<sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. John 13:4*

### **TRAITS FOR A HEART TO SERVE**

- 1. HAS A WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED.**
- 2. SEES PEOPLE BEYOND WHERE THEY ARE THROUGH THE GRACE AND MERCY OF CHRIST.**
- 3. GOES LOW TO BRING UP.**
- 4. HAS A WILLINGNESS TO GET MESSY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matt 20:28*

*9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name... Phil 2:9*