

# SERVANTHOOD

APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> | *READ JOHN 13:3-11; LUKE 22:24-27*

Most of us as parents can recall a time when our kids were small and wanted to help us in some sort of activity. Maybe it was moving something heavy or doing some sort of work around the house. Sooner or later the words “me do” would appear. The child wanted to do whatever work it was on their own or by themselves. Now depending on the situation and the nature of the work it may not be appropriate to allow the child to even try it on their own. But, in certain situations allowing them to try and even fail is not a bad idea. We watch them try again and again. We watch them struggle, get frustrated, make a mess, struggle, try again. You get the point. Finally, if they aren’t too hard-headed, they will relent and admit they cannot do it on their own. Come to think of it, this pattern repeats itself again and again as we get older. Sometimes the lesson is never learned.

In our Bible passage, Jesus is in the upper room with his disciples. At one point in the evening Jesus rises from the table and removes his outer garments replacing them with a towel which he wraps around his waist. He pours water into a basin and begins to wash the disciple’s feet. The Incarnate God of the universe, their creator, their master, washes their feet like a house servant would. We hear no objection from the disciples until we come to Peter. The same Peter that walked on water at Jesus’ invitation, that confessed Christ as Lord, the Son of God, the one that was with Jesus as his veiled glory was suddenly unveiled! Peter would have none of it! Jesus was too great to serve! Jesus politely told Peter that he was incapable of understanding what he was doing at the time. Jesus was wanting to not only serve Peter, but also teach Peter a valuable lesson that Peter would understand in time. Maybe Peter was embarrassed by Jesus taking on the role of a servant, maybe his pride got the best of him, but in effect Peter tells Jesus, “me do.” Jesus replies bluntly that if Peter does not submit to Jesus’ service, Peter could have no part in him. When it was revealed to Peter that apart from Christ’s service Peter could not share in Christ, Peter blurts out that he wants to be washed all over.

In our pride we tell Jesus “me do.” We want to be good enough for him. We don’t want his help, his serving us in humility. Yet this is exactly our need and what the cross teaches us. Not only does the cross teach us that we aren’t good enough, it strikes at our pride by demonstrating we can *never* be good enough. The cross teaches us that the incarnate God humbles himself and does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. The cross teaches us that apart from its cleansing power we remain stained by sin, unclean. The cross teaches us that if we do not submit to Christ’s humiliation by humbling ourselves before him that we will have no share in him.

Have you submitted your life to the cross of Jesus Christ? Have you let the King of kings and Lord of lords serve you by being your substitute? As long as we persist in trying to save ourselves, we will be separated from God’s saving grace. But, O glorious thought! When we come to Jesus and allow him, and him alone to save us from our sin, we receive his super abundant grace that cleanses and continues to cleanse us from every sin.

May the Lord teach you about his service to you this week as you focus on Christ.

In Christ,

John