

Taking it Home:

1. Pastor Matthew mentioned in his message that the world is in a “crucial hour, the needs are great and the time is short.” Are you engaged in the example of Jesus’ Servant leadership? In what way(s) are you serving the kingdom of God?

2. Jesus loved in an intentional and enduring “agape” love, even when He was faced with brokenness, adversity and hostility; He engaged the unsaved world around Him intentionally. Are you loving others (unsaved) intentionally with an enduring love in the manner Jesus declared to His disciples in John 13:15, “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.” This means “go and do likewise what I did for you.”
 - A. Are you doing to others what Jesus did for you?

 - B. If you are a leader, are you a servant leader like Jesus? Do you serve those under your authority?

3. This week, if you are not engaged in Christian service, find a place to serve others.

4. This week, find a way to engage your world for the kingdom of God.

Recommended Books

“Twelve Ordinary Men,” Dr. John MacArthur, (Thomas Nelson, 2002)
“Shape, Finding & Fulfilling your Unique Purpose for Life,” Erik Rees (Purpose Driven publishing)
“The Servant Leader,” Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges, (Countryman Publishing)

Be the Master’s Friend
Take Up the Towel and Bowl
John 13:1-30

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
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Take Up the Towel and Bowl

Serving others within this broken world demonstrates the depth of God’s transforming love within your life.

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 24, 2010

John 13:1-30

Quick Review: Chapter 13 begins the last day of Jesus' life with His disciples before His arrest, trials, beating, crucifixion, death and burial. On this momentous occasion, the Last Supper, Jesus becomes extremely personal in teaching His disciples as seen in the intimate meal together followed by personal instructions and demonstrating the epitome of Christ-like servitude—Jesus washing the feet of the disciples.

My Story

1. Read John 13:1-20 and ask yourself this question, is Jesus my friend? Can you clearly see the very close, intimate friendship Jesus had with His disciples? Maybe you have heard this before, maybe not, but what do you think it means to say, "Jesus is my friend?"

2. Have you ever thought about the powerful portrait of Jesus washing the disciples' feet? Here's the portrait: the Living, Holy, Righteous Creator of the universe on His hands and knees handling the filthy feet of His disciples to clean them before they ate supper. What does that personally instruct you about Jesus the Servant leader?

Growing Deeper

1. Attempt to step into the sandals of Jesus' disciples. Jesus is preparing to depart from the earth and He is instructing His disciples how to live, teach, equip and lead after He's gone. He demonstrates to His disciples how to become a servant /leader also. READ John 13:15. Everything Jesus taught them during the last supper is summed up in this verse. READ and interpret what Jesus is telling the disciples to do! Please share your discovery with your Growth Group.

2. Analyze and interpret the profound statement Pastor Matthew made about modeling the ultimate of all Servant-Leaders, Jesus: "No believer has the right to deny the need to be a servant." What does that mean to you? Share with your Growth Group.

3. Jesus knew where His authority and power came from as well as His mission on earth. Where did Jesus say He continually drew His strength and perseverance from?

A. As a Born Again believer, do you know where your delegated power & authority comes from to engage your realm of influence? Explain

B. Do you know the mission Jesus has for you? Are you currently engaged in fulfilling it? Are you impacting your realm of influence for Jesus?