

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Do As Jesus Did
John 13:1-17

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Worship Time Leader:

To close the Worship Time, everyone will read together Philippians 2:4-5. Make copies for each participant from the final page of this session. Remember to include the younger children—even though they may not yet read. They need to feel included in the activities and participation of the church.

Music Sources:

Make Me a Servant, *The Worship Hymnal* #381; CCLI #33131
The Servant Song, *The Worship Hymnal* #384; CCLI #72763
I Will Serve Thee, *The Worship Hymnal* #377; CCLI #14040

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Do As Jesus Did

Focal Text

John 13:1-17

Background

John 13:1-30

Main Idea

As Jesus approached his death, he provided us an example of humble service that is to characterize the lives of Christians, too.

Question to Explore

When do you do as Jesus did in washing the disciples' feet?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to identify ways they will follow Jesus' example of service.

Gathering together:

Make Me a Servant, *The Worship Hymnal* #381; CCLI #33131

First thoughts:

An old song has the following words:

Make me a blessing,
Make me a blessing,
Out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing,
O Saviour, I pray.
Make me a blessing to someone today.

Words by Ira B. Wilson; Music by George S. Schuler; Copyright 1924 Word Music, Renewed 1952. *The Worship Hymnal* #380; CCLI #11603.

This should be a daily prayer for each of us. In recent years the concept of “random acts of kindness” has caused people to do small acts of kindness for others – to buy a cup of coffee for the person in line behind one at the coffee shop or pay the grocery bill for a young mother who was obviously not going to have enough money to pay for the groceries she had selected and needed. Christians should live a life of purposeful acts of kindness. We should seek to make every day one of service to others. That is the message which portrayed so clearly in the scripture passage we will examine today.

The song suggested to open this gathering time contains the words “And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant today”. “Make me a blessing to someone today.”

Let us sing the song again as we begin today’s study.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Make Me a Servant, *The Worship Hymnal* #381; CCLI #33131

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won’t need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Do As Jesus Did

Focal Text

John 13:1-17

Background

John 13:1-30

Main Idea

As Jesus approached his death, he provided us an example of humble service that is to characterize the lives of Christians, too.

Question to Explore

When do you do as Jesus did in washing the disciples' feet?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to identify ways they will follow Jesus' example of service.

Introduction to your personal study:

Scripture is filled with admonitions to service. As you prepare to teach, use your concordance to help find some of those admonitions. (Most Bibles have a concordance. If yours does not, just read some of the teachings of Jesus until you come across some of His teachings on service). In the concordance look for passages under servant, serve, service, and serving.

Meditate on these passages in preparation for leading the lesson; you will probably want to use some of them in the session.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

John 13: 1-2

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

The earlier gospels record the institution of the Lord's Supper (See Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23) but John does not. He recounts an incident unrecorded in the earlier Gospels – unless Luke 22:27 is a reference to it. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 is Paul's recorded description of Jesus' Last Supper. John 6:52-59 speaks of His body and blood as the real food and real drink and as the bread and drink which came down from heaven. This teaching is done prior to his time with his disciples at the Passover Feast.

The time is during the Feast of the Passover – a week long celebration. The three Gospels indicate that it is the Passover Feast which would have been the Thursday before the crucifixion on Friday. Some commentators feel that John sets the meal of which he is writing a little earlier, but during the week of the Feast of the Passover.

Jesus was very aware that the hour of his death was close. He knew that He would return to the Father. The “full extent of his love” would be the laying down of his life for the sins of the world.

The devil had prompted Judas to betray Jesus. Judas formed the plot six days earlier during or immediately following events at Simon the Leper's house (see Matthew 26:14-16). The devil prompted, but Judas acted. This betrayal is one of the hardest things for us to understand knowing that Judas had been with Jesus personally for the three years of his ministry and had heard most, if not all, of his teachings. He had seen miracle after miracle performed. Yet somehow Satan was able to enter into his life. We are reminded of the words of Jesus recorded in Mark 4:14-15 ***The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.*** Peter warned in 1 Peter 5:8 ***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*** The name of Judas and even that of his father, Simon, has become forever associated with the most bitter kind of betrayal.

It is important to realize that Jesus knew the heart of Judas and his betrayal came as no surprise to him.

John 13: 3-5

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 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.

An important custom in the Mideast was the provision of a basin and towel so that travelers could rinse the dust of the street from their sandal-clad feet. The items – the towel and the basin – were available, but none of the disciples took the opportunity to serve one another by performing the act of washing the feet of the other disciples. These were not aristocratic men who might have been accustomed to servant doing this task.

“Jesus, aware that the Father had put everything under His power and that He was to return to God, does not respond as we might expect but rather takes up the towel to perform the task of the most lowly slave - a task John the Baptist had earlier stated he was not worthy to perform for Jesus” (Card, M. **The Parable of Joy**. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Discovery House Publications, 2007, page 185).

All four Gospels refer to John the Baptist's statement about Jesus' sandals. These statements must refer to the common practice of providing a basin and towel and even washing the feet of the visitor to one's home. To wash one's feet would require the thongs to be untied.

Matthew 3:11 ***I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry.***

Mark 1: 7 ***And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stop down and untie.***

Luke 3: 16 ***John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.***

John 1:26 ***“I baptize with water,” John replies, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”***

Luke 22:24 and following verses speaks of contention among the disciples. ***Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest*** (verse 24). The time is so close to the time of the crucifixion and these disciples who have been with Jesus for much, if not all of his ministry, are arguing about who will be the greatest. They are still thinking of an earthy kingdom with its positions of power and prestige.

“After the supper, Jesus begins to wash the feet of the disciples. The other Gospels tell us that the mood of the disciples at the beginning of this supper is competitive. Has Luke give us a clue as to why this task (washing of dust of travel) was forgotten? We must remember that though Jesus senses the danger before him, the disciples are still glowing in the wonder of the people’s praise. They now feel victory – not danger – in their bones. They are in the mood to argue about the plans for ruling the kingdom and dare not in the mood to serve each other. Research into first-century Jewish custom points up that foot washing is not a task required of a Jewish slave. People wash their own feet upon entering a home, with water supplied by their host. Foot washing is a voluntary act, not a mandatory one. What we see, therefore, in the disciples at the opening of this supper is not a breach of laws or rules of conduct, rather we see men who are relating to each other and even toward their teacher in a minimal way” (Palmer, E.F. **The Intimate Gospel: Studies in John**. Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1978, page116).

Jesus knew that his return to God was imminent. He wanted to model servanthood so he got up, took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist and poured water into a basin. He washed the disciples’ feet one by one and dried them with the end of the towel wrapped around his waist.

The Son of God had literally taken the form of a servant. In Philippians 2:7 we read that Jesus ***made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant***. This is so clearly portrayed in the passage we study today.

John 13: 6-8

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

“No” said Peter, “You shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me”

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter reacted with horror. “You, Lord, washing MY feet? NO, you will NEVER wash my feet”. Peter had acknowledged Jesus as “the Christ, the

Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16.) It is only natural then that he would react when Jesus took the role which a servant usually had – that of washing dusty feet.

Jesus told him that he would one day understand the significance of the act of washing the feet of others. The coming of the Holy Spirit will enable the disciples to understand many of the things they experienced while in the presence of Jesus.

Jesus insisted that it was necessary for Peter to be washed in order to be in fellowship with him. “He (Jesus) knows that Peter more than anything else, more even than his pretensions to greatness, wants to belong to him. Our Lord’s words to Peter are sensitive and strong and good: ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part in me.’ His words break through every proud defense, and we hear from Peter the warm and joyous enthusiasm that has endeared this man to us: ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head.’ The beginning of a new era in Peter’s discipleship has started. He will collapse within hours, but Jesus’ prediction will hold: ‘but afterwards you will understand’” (Palmer, page 118).

John 13: 9-11

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” 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.” For he knew who was going to betray him and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Peter, partially comprehending and enthusiastic as he often is, asks Jesus to wash him all over. Jesus tells him that he is in fact clean – that is his salvation is complete. The lesson of the day is the need for a servant attitude. “Jesus does not wash Peter’s head and hands because what he has done is sufficient. He meant the foot washing event as a sign, and now he interprets it to them. He calls it an example of the servant role that they as his disciples are to take toward each other” (Palmer, page 118).

Jesus refers again to the coming betrayal. No amount of washing would cleanse one of their number who had become the devil’s agent.

John 13: 12-17

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. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater

than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them”.

“When Jesus had ‘taken’ his garments again and the acted parable was over, he bade them do what he himself had done, following his example. Servants were not greater than their master; yet as his envoys they would represent him.

“When we are tempted to think of our dignity, our prestige, our place, our rights, let us see again the picture of the Son of God, girt with a towel, and kneeling at His disciples’ feet” (Barclay, Wm. **The Daily Study Bible, The Gospel of John**. Volume 2. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1956, page 162).

Was the whole episode, as some hold, simply an acted parable whose theme was the glory of service? This is part of the truth, but far from the whole of it – or else in that mysterious dialogue with Peter is simply obscuring the parable’s plain lesson.

Let us look at it again. Recall first that all is enacted, so to say, in the shadow of the cross and that the washer of the disciples’ feet is the one destined to take away the world’s sins. Consider next the verbs which John uses to describe Jesus’ actions. Jesus ‘lays aside’ his garments and, the washing over, ‘takes them again.’ These are the very verbs which the Good Shepherd had used of his death and resurrection (19:11, 15, 17f). Above all, remember that the motif of the whole story is cleansing and that Jesus said to Peter, ‘If I do not wash you, you are not in fellowship with me’. The deeper meaning then is that there is no place in his fellowship for those who have not been cleansed by his atoning death. The episode dramatically symbolizes the truth enunciated in 1 John 1:7, ‘We are being cleansed from every sin by the blood of Jesus’ (Hunter, A.W. **The Cambridge Bible Commentary on the New English Bible: The Gospel According to John**. Cambridge: The University Press, 1965, pages 134-135).

“You can tell that time is getting short by Jesus’ almost desperate question to the disciples: ‘Do you understand what I have just done for you?’ Never in the gospel has He asked such a pointed question. But now it is getting late, and they need to comprehend this, of all lessons. ‘I just gave you an example,’ He tells them. He wants this pattern of servanthood to become the pattern of their lives. The earlier discussion concerning who was greatest, a discussion they seemed to have frequently had, is no longer appropriate. Jesus makes clear that His call is to radical servanthood. And so, even as His actions validate everything else He has said, He now demonstrates what He means by His powerful example.

After the resurrection Jesus will again be their servant as He prepares their breakfast on the shore of the lake (see John 21). Jesus also promised them that at the second coming He would again get up from the table at the great Messianic feast, change into the clothes of a servant, and wait on those who had been His faithful servants (see Luke 12:37). But for now He shows them the full extent of His infinite love by doing something small, by washing their feet” (Card, page 180).

Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them. This may be called the benediction of ministry. Jesus gives the example and the expectation that the example should be followed. In fact, his words are a command ***Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.*** But it is not a burdensome command for it carried with it the promise of a blessing. What a difference it should make in our fulfilling of our Lord's commands if we could but understand that there is always a blessing in the keeping of them.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Help each participant to identify a practical way of serving others which can be accomplished in the near future. Help each participant examine his/her attitude toward what special privileges they expect to have in the workplace, church, or home. Are those attitudes consistent with the teaching of this passage?

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Do As Jesus Did

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

John 13:1-17

Background

John 13:1-30

Main Idea

As Jesus approached his death, he provided us an example of humble service that is to characterize the lives of Christians, too.

Question to Explore

When do you do as Jesus did in washing the disciples' feet?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to identify ways they will follow Jesus' example of service.

Connect with Life:

Allow time for a couple of participants to share an example of service given to them by another person – help with moving, child care, meals after surgery, mowing the lawn or shoveling snow are examples.

Guide the Study:

Have someone read John 13:1-2.

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Say: John does not record the Lord's Supper as do the other Gospel writers. (If someone asks Why not?, tell the group that we do not know because John does not say. However, the answer may lie in John's statement at the end of Chapter 20. There he says that much, much more could be written that Jesus said and did, but that the purpose of what he recorded was that we could know Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. So, he simply did not try to record everything that took place, even important events that furthered the discipling of the apostles.)

You may want to read (or have someone else read one or more accounts of that important part of the Passover Feast which we are studying (See Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23). Watch your time, carefully. This could be a topic better served in one of the other Units and Sessions that deals with this event.

Ask: What is significant about this feast? (Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He was about to show the full extent of his love by his death on the cross).

Have someone read Matthew 26:14-16.

Explain: This is 6 days earlier and immediately following the events at Simon the Leper's house when Mary anointed Jesus' feet with perfume.

Encourage a brief discussion of this: What is the role of the devil, who is Satan, and the role of personal responsibility in Judas' betrayal?

Now apply their answers to yourselves: What is the role of Satan and of personal responsibility in our own lives?

Ask: Can Satan (the Devil) actually make you do something evil?

Have someone read Mark 4:14-15 and 1 Peter 5:8.

Ask: Was Jesus surprised by the betrayal? (No, Jesus knew the heart of Judas; Jesus also knew the plan of God for his own death and resurrection).

Have someone read John 13 3-5.

Ask: How much power did Jesus have?

Say: We read the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples knowing that He had all power and that He was about to die.

Describe for the learners the custom of the washing of feet and what Jesus did. (Perhaps there is someone in the group with sufficient knowledge of Biblical times and

places that could describe, or help you describe the need and custom of washing the feet of guests as they entered a house.)

Read the accounts (shown below) of what John the Baptist said about his unworthiness to untie the sandals of Jesus.

Matthew 3:11 *I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry.*

Mark 1:7 *And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stop down and untie.*

Luke 3:16 *John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

John 1:26 *"I baptize with water," John replies, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."*

Ask: Would John the Baptist have felt worthy to have Jesus wash his feet?

Have some read John 13:6-11.

Encourage someone to describe Peter's reaction to what Jesus was doing.

Have someone read John 13:12-17.

Inquire: What is the example which Jesus gave His disciples?

Add: How does that relate to us today? Allow ample time for discussion.

Ask: What will happen if we serve one another? (We will be blessed, verse 17).

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Spend time discussing practical ways of service the group can corporately or individually undertake this week or in the near future.

Share scriptures about service which you as leader have discovered in your preparation to lead this study.

Ask a member to close the Bible study in prayer.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Do As Jesus Did John 13:1-17

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.



Dramatize the events of these verses (John 13:1-17) and share in the Worship Time.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Do As Jesus Did***
John 13:1-17**Beginning the Service:**

Have the youth share the dramatization they have prepared.

Sing **The Servant Song**, *The Worship Hymnal* #384; CCLI #72763
I Will Serve Thee, *The Worship Hymnal* #377; CCLI #14040

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Conflict in Egypt led to the burning of many Christian churches. Pray for all of those affected by the conflict there and especially for the faithful witness of the Christians who are persecuted only because they are Christians.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

The Full Extent of His Love.

Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love John 13:1.

In Philippians 2:4-11 we read:

You should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

***Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
But made himself nothing,
Taking the very nature of a servant,
Being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled himself
And became obedient to death –
Even death on a cross!
There God exalted him to the highest place
And gave him the name that is above every name,
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.***

The theme for our study and worship is “Do As Jesus Did”. The emphasis is on following the model of service which Jesus gave when he washed the disciples’ feet.

Every word of the Philippians passage which we have just read speaks to how Jesus was a servant and how that should be the model for our own lives.

Much of our time and interest is spent caring for our own interests. There are the tasks of work, of caring for our homes, of parenting and a multitude of other small and large things that need to be done. But we are told that as we look to our own interests, we need to look to the interests of others. This is not just a matter of acts we perform, but of our very attitude which should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

This is an amazing statement. We are not only to be like Jesus; we are to have an attitude which is the *same* as Jesus.

That attitude for Jesus meant that although he was equal with God Himself, he did not consider that equality something to be grasped. He did not boast about it; he did not claim special privileges because of it.

What a contrast to the values of the world. People in responsible governmental offices overspend their abundant travel allowances. Luxury hotels, fine wines, extravagant dining is thought to be a right, not a privilege.

Corporate officials enjoy holidays at luxury resorts under the umbrella of business or rewarding faithful employees.

Entertainment and sports heroes receive enormous salaries and live extravagantly.

Even people in ministry may sometimes expect and receive benefits not available to many “non-clergy” people.

Jesus made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.

Making ourselves nothing does not mean that we deny our worth as individuals and as chosen ones of Christ. Peter was a fisherman, an early follower of Christ and one of his twelve disciples. He wrote in 1 Peter 1:9 ***But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***

Making ourselves nothing means that we understand that being chosen, royal, holy, and belonging to God is given to us in order that we may declare the praises of God and serve others. We need to seek to have the very nature of a servant.

Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. It was not a big task; it was not even a task which absolutely had to be done – dusty feet don’t cause a great deal of discomfort or carry health risks. It was a loving task, an humble task. That action said to his disciples and to us, today, that no task which serves others and God is unimportant.

We read in John 13:1: ***Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love*** immediately before the account of the washing of the disciples’ feet. In only a few hours, Jesus would become ***obedient to death, even death on a cross.*** That was the full extent of his love.

We are not all called to die in service to God, although that is a very present reality for Christians in many parts of the world. But we are called to give our lives in service.

***That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.***

There is a reason for the service we give which is beyond the immediate help we may give to the grieving, the aged and ill or the person suffering from a natural disaster. We are to live lives of service so that others will come to confess Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Call to Commitment:

The question, then, is whether we take this call to us seriously as Christ followers. Please bow your heads and close your eyes. Take one minute to talk with your Lord and Saviour. Use that minute to recommit yourself to following Him, even to death for your beliefs, if that might be required.

Sing

I Will Serve Thee, *The Worship Hymnal* #377; CCLI #14040

Concluding the Service:

Say together the words of Philippians 2:4-5: ***Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.***

Copy for each participant in the Worship Time (Read together to close the service).

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

++++++(Cut here)++++++

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

++++++(Cut here)++++++

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

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++++++(Cut here)++++++

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++++++(Cut here)++++++

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

++++++(Cut here)++++++

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

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