



Small Group Notes Who Are We? Serving 23 February 2025

The goal with looking at John 13 is to move from being selfish to self-giving. To do so it is helpful to get under the surface in regard to the things that make this difficult for us.

Often we can see, among people, a sense of jealousy and competition. This can be seen in clothing trends, home renovations, job promotions, and much more. Where have you seen this? Why do you think this is so common?

Why wouldn't a person be more excited to bless someone else than to chase after their own reward? What makes us like this?

Read John 13:1-5

Back then everyone wore sandals and walked on dirt roads. It was standard for the lowest servant of the house to wash the feet of guests. The disciples have rented a room so there isn't a servant to do this for them. A little into the meal Jesus takes the position of a servant.

This cultural situation is not part of anything we are used to. Can you think of any similar situations that could arise for us?

John tells us, in verse one, that Jesus' actions are motivated by love. How can we serve out of this same motivation? What are other motivations that people might take a place of service from?

What do you think about verse 3, regarding self-identity and service? Why do you think John is adding this to the story?

Read John 13:6–11

What Jesus does is unthinkable, to the disciples, on several levels: Jesus is older than them, regarded as a teacher or rabbi, but most profoundly they have come to understand that Jesus was the Son of God. Knowing this, what do you think about Peter's response?

John weaves the betrayal of Judas into this story. Why do you think he does that? What would it be like, in Jesus' position, to serve Judas?

John 13:12–17

Jesus is showing us an example to follow, but it might also be called a better way to live.

What stops us from living sacrificial, servant hearted, generous lives?

Things we might identify include pride, a sense of competition, a desire for power, or even ways we have been hurt by others. How does our passage address these different things that might stop us?

When have you seen people chase after things that prove meaningless in the long run?

How can we, like Jesus, live for people instead of power?

Read John 13:14–15

The more you can move from being selfish, to being self-giving, the more you can be used in a world where that doesn't make sense.

How can we better live this out?

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