



SERVICE

John 13:1-9, 15 | Ryan Pfeiffer & Kelly Carlson |

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How would you describe Peter's reaction when Jesus tries to wash his feet?

But in this simple gesture Jesus speaks powerfully to the role of service in his redemptive purpose and our calling as his disciples.

FOCUS: Jesus uses this moment to (1) teach us about his purpose (cross) and (2) importance of service as a spiritual practice in our life.

PURPOSE— 8 Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

At the very heart of the gospel is not what we must do for God but what God has done for us. Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Washing the disciples feet represents:

- Our need for cleansing from sin that enslaves us to pride/ insecurity.
- The power of the Holy Spirit renewing God's love for others in us.
- Our choice to receive or reject God's grace... Peter "No"

Jesus— "unless I wash you you will lack the power to serve me and others."

It's not a one time receiving but a continual receiving of God's help and grace.

PRACTICE—15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES. Activities of mind and body that help us to cooperate with God's grace so that we become more and more like Jesus.

How does the practice of service help us cooperate with God's grace?

First let's look at different types of service:

1. Generosity- giving of our resources— clothes, money, food, time
2. Hospitality- welcoming friends and strangers into our homes/ church/ life
3. Listening- lending our ear so others feel seen and heard.
4. Helpfulness- simple small acts- baby-sitting, giving up our spot in line, etc
5. Comfort- being present in someones moment of grief or trial
6. Encouragement- affirming and calling out the best in others
7. Proclaiming- speaking God's truth and grace over someone



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Serving others cooperates with God's grace that is making us more like Him.

1 Timothy 4:7 rather, train yourself to be godly.

- Trains us in humility— being interruptible and useful... we have limits.
- Trains us in compassion — seeing others — strength to engage.
- Trains us in faith — giving what we have... little or costly... trust!

Practicing service cooperates with the grace of God that is reaching others.

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

How can we create a rhythm of service in our life that cooperates with God's grace in us and through us?