

MESSAGE BASED SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIG DEEPER:

In American culture today, there is a very high value set on an individual's personal RIGHTS & FREEDOMS. We all value the rights and freedoms that being American affords us, and we are very protective if anyone tries to deprive us of something that we feel entitled to. However, when we look at the life of Jesus – we constantly see him giving up or laying down his RIGHTS and deferring to others.

1 - Read the scripture passage below: Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians 2

1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- a. If the average American citizen were to EDIT this passage of scripture today – which specific sections or words do you think they would want to remove or edit? Which parts would be most difficult for them to accept? Why?

b. Verse 7 says that Jesus “made himself nothing” (NIV). Other Bible translations say “He gave up his divine privileges” (NLT) or “he emptied himself” (NASB). Jesus laid aside his “rights” or “privileges” as God. As followers of Christ, what does it mean for us today to “empty ourselves?” What kind of things are inside of us that need to be laid aside in order to follow his example?

c. Think of 2 specific scenarios (examples) that show ways that you could “empty yourself”? (with your kids, your spouse, your co-workers, etc...) What would this look like?

2 – When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he also washed the feet of the disciple who would betray him – Judas. Read Luke 6:32-36

Luke 6

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

a. Is there a “Judas” in your life that Jesus is calling you to serve? What is preventing you from reaching out & serving this person in love?

b. Do you truly believe that Jesus wants you to follow His example by loving and serving this person?

c. What steps can you take this week to begin acting in obedience to Jesus? Will you commit to doing this?

d. Can the group pray for you this week about this and then ask you next time how it went?

VERSES, QUOTATIONS & KEY POINTS FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

Luke 22:24 (NLT)

²⁴ Then they began to **argue among themselves** about who would be the greatest among them.

Ruben's Tweet

"Pride destroys, divides, and is delusional. It keeps you from falling to your knees but eventually you'll be on all fours (Daniel 4:33)".

Matthew 26:7-8 (NLT)

⁷ While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head. ⁸ The disciples were **indignant** when they saw this. "What a waste!" they said.

John 13:1 (NASB)

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

John 13:2 (NASB)

² During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to betray Him,

1. Jesus washed the feet of Judas.

Psalms 41:9 (NASB)

⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.

Rick Warren, Tweet

"Friends who fail to speak up for you hurt you more than foes who speak against you."

John 13:2-5 (NASB)

³ *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴ got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. ⁵ Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

2. Jesus got on His knees and got a towel.

Edersheim, Life and Times

"Such girding was the common mark of a slave."

Philippians 2:6-8 (NLT)

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Mark 10:45 (NASB)

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

John 13:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."

John 13:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

J. Dwight Pentecost, The Words and Works of Jesus Christ

"Christ was not saying that Peter would have no relationship with Him, but He was saying that Peter could not experience fellowship with Him until he was willing to accept this ministry."

John 13:10-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*." ¹¹ For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

John 13:12-16 (NASB)

¹² So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

3. Jesus gave me an example of what serving looks like.

Erwin McManus, An Unstoppable Force

"Once survival has become our supreme goal, we have lost our way... the church is not called to survive history but to serve humanity. As with each individual, there is a difference between living and existing for the church...The church exists to serve as the body of Christ, and it is through this commitment to serve that we are forced to engage our culture...The serving that we are called to requires direct contact. You cannot wash the feet of a dirty world if you refuse to touch it."