

Personified: Meeting Jesus on the Way to the Cross

Week 3 – February 28, 2021

Scripture: John 13:1-20

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Think about a time when you had to “get your hands dirty” and do manual, menial or some hard work. Was it rewarding or draining? Share your experience with the group.

Read John 13:1-20 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

This series examines the humanity of Jesus, how it relates to our own experiences, and how that differs from the divinity of Jesus (i.e. Son of God, Messiah, Savior, Christ, Immanuel). Walking through the last week of Jesus as He moves toward the cross, we find Him in a moment with those to whom He had invested three years. Jesus knew His time was nearly up. He had invested in them, and in just a short time, His mission, the work of His Kingdom, would be in their hands. He has one more teaching for them. Imagine if you knew today that you had one last chance to communicate something to your children or loved ones. One last communication. One last bit of advice. One last challenge. What would it be?

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. Jesus is preparing to leave this world and return to the Father, with one last moment to teach (John 13:1). This message is the heart of Jesus. It is what matters most and the success of His mission depends upon it.
 - a. Jesus emphasizes love throughout this scripture (John 13:1-20). Where do you see His heart for humanity come through His words?
 - b. Jesus knows all things are under His power, where He came from, and where He is going (John 13:3). How does knowing that Jesus was mindful about who He is make what He is about to teach even more powerful?
2. Jesus washed His disciples' feet as a lesson in love and humility. It demonstrated the principle of selfless service that was soon to be exemplified by the cross.
 - a. Serving (humility) is not related to position or power. Have you ever had a situation when you found yourself saying “they don't know who I am” and responding in a way to set things straight? Share your story.
 - b. Serving (humility) is the essence of following Jesus, of being like Him. After washing their feet, Jesus reminds them that He is their Lord and Master, but that doesn't stop Him from washing their feet. Jesus said “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27). What types of boundaries can serving others remove?
 - c. Some acts of love and humility require us to put ourselves in a position of discomfort. How would you respond to discomfort for the sake of loving others?
3. The meaning of Jesus' teaching is this: “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:17).
 - a. How can we actively move toward showing love and humility in our daily lives?
 - b. What stops us from living this way?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God for modeling love and showing us His heart. Ask Him to help us remove what is of this world and replace it with the desire to live and love like Jesus. We want to change this world through an army of humble servants serving the way Jesus serves.