

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 14.07.24

PREACHER: PS ADAM DODDS

“PRACTICES OF JESUS: SERVING”

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING, THINKING & DOING

Conviction of a Disciple: A growing and maturing disciple of Christ adopts a default posture of service, following the example of Jesus.

OVERVIEW

Through the practice of service, we begin to posture our minds, bodies, and hearts to be more in line with the nature of God, as demonstrated through Jesus washing His disciples' feet in the Gospel of John.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: How does Jesus' act of washing His disciples' feet challenge your perception of how Christians should serve each other?

Step 2: Commit: How can you practically serve those around you this week? It could be as simple as challenging yourself to outserve someone else, or as fun and creative as you would like it to be!

Step 3: Act: Choose someone in your life who might feel is more challenging for you to serve, and intentionally and practically love on them like Jesus would this week.

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 13:1-17

When we look at the posture of Jesus, it's more than the way He held Himself. A posture is a position of the mind, body, and heart. Everyone has a default posture. In the Gospel of John, we see that Jesus' default posture was one of serving others. He wasn't paid or obligated to serve, but He did it anyway, setting the example for us as His disciples.

The gravity of Jesus serving His Disciples by washing their feet can only be fully felt when we understand just how countercultural this act was.

We might see it as a quaint or kind act, but in a society driven by honour and shame, this act is almost offensive to the Disciples. Even a Jewish slave could not be forced to wash the feet of his master because it was beneath him. We can only imagine the shock and horror of the Disciples when Jesus, their Lord and teacher, took off His outer garments, wrapped a towel around His waist, and knelt to wash their feet. In fact, Peter protests against this act to defend the order of their society!

But, Jesus is deliberately destabilising society because He is not trying to fit into society; He is creating a new one, a new society that reflects His character. While right here in Brisbane, we may not be operating under an honour and shame culture, we do still carry cultural status in our context; perhaps, the size of our salaries, our jobs or education status, the way that we dress, or the cars that we drive are symbols that we are attached to.

The question is, do you believe that, as a Christian, it is your job to serve others no matter where they sit on the ladder of status? Following Jesus' example, it might be time to burn that ladder.

Jesus alone is the master, but He has proved Himself the slave to all of us by dying on the cross for us. We owe a great debt to Jesus, but the way we repay it is by serving our neighbour. The practice of service - action for the good of others - recalibrates our lives to be more and more patterned after Jesus

DISCUSSION

1. How are you good at serving others? In what ways can you grow in serving people in your world?
2. Jesus' default posture was that of serving others. What is your default posture in different areas of your life? Is there anything holding you back from embracing that posture of service (e.g. status, cultural values)?
3. What resources do you have that you can use to serve others? (e.g. time, skills, friendship, encouragement, possessions, etc)

PRAYER

Lord,

Please help us to embrace the posture of service towards one another, as Jesus did. Highlight to us the areas in which we need to grow in how we serve others, and open our eyes to the ways that we can use what we have been gifted with to practically love others like You do. As we continue to become your apprentices and follow your example, strengthen us and soften our hearts towards creating a culture in our everyday lives that reflects your character over worldly values.

Amen.