Loved to the End

JOHN 13:1–38 • MIDWEEK DEVOTIONAL

> “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”
>
> JOHN 13:1 (CSB)

MORE THAN A SERVANT’S JOB

At the Last Supper, Jesus knew what was coming. Judas would betray Him. Peter would deny Him. The other disciples would scatter. Yet Jesus got up from the table, wrapped a towel around His waist, and washed their feet.

In the first-century world, where a person reclined at a formal meal could communicate honor and status. Washing dusty feet was work usually associated with a servant. But Jesus, the Lord and Teacher, chose to serve.

Jesus wasn’t teaching them whose job it was to wash feet. He was teaching them what kind of people they were supposed to become.

That challenges us. It’s easy to serve when it’s convenient or appreciated. It’s harder when nobody notices, when it costs us time, or when we feel somebody else ought to do it.

But don’t miss the order of the story. Before Peter could follow Jesus’ example, he had to let Jesus wash his feet. We don’t earn Jesus’ love by serving Him. We serve because we’ve first received His love.

DIG DEEPER

Read John 13:12–17 and 13:34–35 again.

1. What’s the difference between doing an act of service and having a servant’s heart?
2. Where have you been thinking, “That’s somebody else’s responsibility”?
3. What would people learn about Jesus by watching the way you treat others?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE

Find one person you can serve this week without being asked or expecting anything in return. Don’t just think about serving. Find an opportunity to do it.

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father, thank You for loving us when we could never earn it. Help us remember that Jesus didn’t merely teach about love; He demonstrated it. Give us humble hearts that serve even when it’s inconvenient. May others recognize Jesus through the way we love them. In His name, amen.