

Scripture Reference: John 13:1-17 / Focal vv. 15-17

Date: November 1, 2013

Title: "You're No Better Than Jesus"

Focus: An example of service

Intro:

1. As Calvary drew closer and closer Jesus was intentional to leave His disciples a lasting impression.

2. He could, and did, speak to them of the importance of the Kingdom and of the difficulty that awaited them in the coming days.

3. But here, mere hours before all heaven was about to break lose; Jesus chose to simply demonstrate a profound aspect of being His disciple. He served them by washing their feet.

4. This image of servanthood would forever shape those who followed Him as they carried the Good News to the world.

Body:

"I have set you an example," (v. 15a)

- Jesus is the essence of what a disciple of God is. He is the pattern. He is the example.

- His life demonstrates the character those who live in relationship with God are to possess.

- Jesus is not only a testament of God's love. He is not only a sacrifice for sin.

- Jesus is the *life pattern* (example) for a person who is in, or who seeks, a relationship with God. He is the manifestation of what being a follower of God is.

“you should do as I have done for you” (V. 15b)

- Jesus is the example in all matters of faith and practice, i.e. love, devotion, purity, and kindness.

- However, in this passage he emphasizes one thing in particular, *service*. Having washed the disciples' feet, he tells them, *“you should do as I have done”* (v. 15).

- Loving God by serving others is the heart of God's Kingdom.

Matthew 20:28 *“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

- Towards this goal the Holy Spirit of God works in all followers of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:6-7 *“There are different kinds of working but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

- Disciples are designed and destined to serve.

John 14:12-13 *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do*

whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."

"no servant is greater than his master" (V. 16)

- If service was typical of Jesus, we cannot expect it to be any different.
- Followers of Christ need to understand that if it was said of Jesus, it needs to be said of us.

Philippians 2:5-8 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! "

- We cannot afford ourselves the privilege of seeing anything as *beneath us*, nor are we *better than* whatever He may place in our lives.
- You are no better than Jesus and as a servant of God; he is no better than you.

"you will be blessed if you do them. "(V. 17)

- Since service is at the heart of the Kingdom, disciples will only be happy when he is serving.

Acts 5:40-41 "They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name."

Closing:

There are four things to remember:

- Jesus is the example in all matters of life. As a believer or non-believer, you want to know what a life looks like that is pleasing to God? Take a look at Jesus
- Who he is, His disciples should be as well.
- We should expect a life no different than His.
- Happiness is found in this.