

## Serve Sunday: The Heart of Service

**Romans 12:10-11** <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord

**Ephesians 1:22-23** <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**John 13:1-4** 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. <sup>2</sup> During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him, <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> \*got up from supper, and \*laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

Jesus received the ultimate affirmation; He had passed the only test that matters. He had loved His disciples to the end. Yet he prepared to serve them.

Jesus is about to give His life for His disciples. What could His Father ask that would even be close in importance?

Jesus did not have to prove His love for them. There would be no question about that. Yet Jesus set aside His clothes.

Jesus faced a test: An enemy was among them. What happens if Jesus serves Him? Yet Jesus put the towel on His waist.

Jesus knew that He had come from God- He was the Lord. He was also returning to God- to dwell in glory with all power. Even so, Jesus filled the basin and approached the table.

**John 13:5-17** <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> So He \*came to Simon Peter. He \*said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter \*said to Him, "Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." <sup>10</sup> 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*." <sup>11</sup> For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The blessing is not in knowing that we should serve, but in serving. The Head served the Body so that the members of the Body would care for each other forever.

Serving with the heart of Christ is foot-washing! It is the fulfillment of Christ's Word and brings joy to His heart.

**Eph. 4:15-16** <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**Mark 10:45** <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."