



## THE SIGN OF HIS SERVANTHOOD

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus came to serve, and we can find fulfillment in following His example.

**DATE:** Sunday, March 8 and Wednesday March 11, 2026

**SCRIPTURE:** John 13:1-17

## OPENING QUESTION

**What are some ways you have served others, and how has that energized you spiritually?**

*How have others served you, and how has their service been a blessing to you?*

## SETTING THE STAGE

Chapter 13 begins what scholars refer to as Jesus's farewell discourse to His beloved disciples (John 13-17). A farewell discourse was a well-established biblical pattern as seen with Moses, Joshua and Paul for example. However, Jesus added a specific "action section" to His message when He washed His disciples' feet. It was an object lesson they would never forget.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### JOHN 13:1-17 (CSB)

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. <sup>5</sup> Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." <sup>10</sup> "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

## DISCUSSION

### HUMILITY: Jesus and the Father

READ: JOHN 13:1-5

- How do you see Jesus's humility lived out in verse 5?
- Have you ever been part of a foot washing service or experience? What was that like?

### HOLINESS

READ: JOHN 13:6-11

- What are your personal impressions of Peter's protests and Jesus's responses?
- Where do you need cleansing today in your struggle with the power of sin? What keeps getting your feet dirty? Is it an action, a thought, an attitude?
- How does Peter's dialogue with Jesus give you hope as you consider your own sanctification process - of becoming more like Christ?

### HELPING

READ: JOHN 13:12-17

- What does the term "servant leadership" mean to you? Where have you seen it demonstrated?
- Share Jesus's instructions in verses 14-15 in your own words.
- Have you ever considered a serving opportunity "beneath you"? How does today's lesson challenge your attitude toward that task?
- Is the Lord calling you to make an attitude adjustment when it comes to serving?
- What needs have you noticed around you (home, church, community, etc.) that you as a LifeGroup could meet?

The beautiful truth is that as we humbly serve others, walk in God's paths of holiness, and do what He tells us, then we will enjoy happiness. God gives us gifts to be used to build up the body of Christ, and in using them we feel His pleasure and find our purpose.

## RESPONSE

What is one tangible way you can serve a family member or friend today? The truth is, it will probably bring *you* more joy than *them*!

## READING PLAN

3/8 – John 3; 3/9 – John 4; 3/10 – Isaiah 60; 3/11 – Isaiah 61; 3/12 – Luke 4; 3/13 – Genesis 32; 3/14 – Genesis 33; *Memory Verse* – John 3:16-17