

WORD

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

John 13:12-17

In those days, people walked around and their feet would get dusty. As a sign of hospitality, the owner of the house would have a servant wash his guests’ feet when they arrived. Jesus showed the disciples the real meaning of serving others.

During Jesus’ time, most people walk around barefoot and it was a sign of hospitality for an owner of the house to allot a servant to wash his or her guests’ feet as they arrive. When Jesus did this to His disciples, He modeled for us how a true leader should be. What did Jesus want His disciples and us to follow from His example?

- **Be humble.**

³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3,4

Jesus exemplified what true humility was. If we are to follow Him, we too should develop humility in our lives. Part of being humble is to have a genuine care for the needs of others. For some, this may be easy and for others, it may entail extra effort. However we may find it, we all can develop humility by God’s grace. How is humility shown in your life right now?

- **Be willing to serve.**

Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve . . .

1 Peter 5:2

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

Matthew 20:28

Jesus did not hesitate in doing what was a menial job—to wash the feet of His followers. Being the Son of God, Jesus willingly took on a servant’s job to show that a true leader should have a servant’s heart. Jesus showed us a different kind of leadership that was opposite to the world’s standards. In what ways can we willingly serve others?

- **Serve others gladly.**

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men . . .

Ephesians 6:7

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

When we express Christlike character in our actions toward others, we show them who Jesus is—how much He cares for them and wants to reach out to them. Our acts of kindness can change people’s hearts. Who are the people you have brought closer to Jesus because of a kind act?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What areas in your life do not reflect humility as of the moment? What do you think are the reasons why you find it hard to be humble in these situations?
- In what instances is God calling you to serve? Who are the people you think God is calling you to serve in this season?
- Looking at what you do now, which areas do you think gladness is not present? Why?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- How can you better walk in humility towards your family, school, work, church, or community? What attitudes or thinking do you need to change?
- Which areas do you think God is calling you to serve? How and when will you start doing this? Who are the people you can serve this coming week?
- Wherever God has placed you now, how can you better serve with gladness? What steps can you take to start serving with a glad and sincere heart?