

BIG IDEA

A non-serving Christian is a tragic contradiction.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What is the dirtiest job you have ever had to do?

Read John 13:1-5. Based on your understanding of this passage, what enabled Jesus to take the low position of washing his disciples' feet?

The key to this question is John 13:3-4:

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

Jesus wasn't worried about his reputation because he was secure in his identity and in his calling. That empowered him to take the lowest place and do the dirty job of serving by washing the feet of the disciples.

What is so significant about the fact that Jesus washed Judas' feet? What implications does this example have for your life?

Jesus set an example for all of us when he chose to wash the feet of the one who would betray him to his death. If Jesus was willing to serve Judas, then his example challenges us to serve not only our friends, other Christians, and people we consider "worthy," but also to serve those who oppose us (hostile co-worker, rude neighbor, etc.)

Define "contradiction" in your own words. Why is a non-serving Christian a contradiction? Why is a non-serving Christian a *tragic* contradiction?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Read Mark 10:42-52. Would people use the word "servant" to describe you?

Reflect on Cal's statement from the message this week, "**Jesus is the example but we want to be the exception.**" In what area of your life do you want to be the exception to the example Jesus set for us?

What fears do you have about taking a "lowly" position in your family, workplace, or community?



WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

If someone was “mimicking” your life, what good things would they do or say? What not-so-good things might they pick up from your example?

What changes are you going to make this week to better follow Jesus’ example of serving?

Read James 1:22-25. How can we avoid the temptation to “merely listen to the word”? Share your best strategies for putting faith into action with the group.

Here are a few suggestions to get the ball rolling:

1. Sign up for Mobilize if you haven’t already!
2. Pray this prayer as you read your Bible, and listen for God’s response:
What do you want me to know? What do you want me to do?
3. Give a trusted friend or mentor permission to challenge you in areas where they see opportunity for greater obedience in your life.

