



BEHIND THE SCENES

LEARNING FROM JESUS IN JOHN 13-17

The King Who Serves

Discussion Guide | Feb 21st, 2021

Before you begin, please read John 13:1-17

1. What (or who!) comes to mind when you hear the word “service”? Explain why you answered the way you did.
2. Reflect on John 13:1-5. In what ways do these verses spotlight Jesus’ identity as “King” (i.e., His authority)?
3. How does Jesus’ ultimate authority express itself in verses 4-5? What surprises you about this?
4. Jesus is the King who serves. Why is it important to have this full picture fixed in our hearts? (In other words: What happens if we overlook His kingship? What happens if we overlook His humble service?) Do you tend to keep this “full” picture of Jesus in mind, or is your view of Jesus smaller than what we find in this passage?
5. Why do you think Peter initially resisted Jesus’ service (vv. 6-8)? Is there anything in Peter’s posture here you can relate to?
6. John 13:1-17 isn’t just about Jesus; it also means something for us. One takeaway here is that we need to allow ourselves to be served by Jesus.
 - What does it mean to “be served” by Jesus? How does Jesus’ work on the cross give us an even fuller expression of His sacrificial service?
 - Why do we need Jesus to serve us?
 - What does it look like, practically speaking, to allow ourselves to be served by Jesus? What attitudes do we show? What actions express this willingness?
7. Now focus on John 13:12-17. What command does Jesus give His followers here?
8. Read the following passages of Scripture. After each, briefly share how it adds to or reinforces what you’ve learned about serving from John 13:1-17.
 - Mark 10:42-45
 - Romans 12:4-8
 - Phil 2:3-4

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9. What are common reasons for *not* serving? (Think of reasons you've heard, or reasons you've said yourself!)
10. Imagine you had to convince someone about the value of serving, who was voicing one or more of the reasons from the previous question. What would you say?
11. If you're already serving somewhere, where are you serving? What have you learned, and how have you been formed by this experience?
12. If you're not currently serving, are there steps you can take to commit to serving others in a practical way? What will you do this week to apply what you've learned about serving from John 13? (Get specific!)
13. Easter is just a few weeks away! How does what you've learned about Jesus help prepare you for Easter?
14. **Challenge:** Memorize John 13:14-15: "14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."