

Life Group Notes

Sunday 6th November 2022

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: BLESS: Serve

Passage: John 13:1-5, 14-17

Big Idea: To BLESS your neighbour, Jesus invites you to serve

The shocking thing here is that Jesus is taking on the **uniform, the position and the action of a slave**. What is Jesus teaching his disciples here in this final lesson? 2 things.

- He is acting out the wonderful story of salvation (1-5)

Jesus existed with the Father in eternal joy. He voluntarily rose from the table, laid aside his robes of light and power, and stooped to enter our world (Phil 2:6-7). Squeezed all his eternal divinity into the body and mind and emotions of a human. Washing feet then is a picture of salvation. He takes the dirtiest, most shameful parts of humanity – our polluted souls, our evil imaginations, the bits we would show no-one, and he washes them clean.

- Secondly, he is setting the disciples a final example (14-17)

Let's wash the feet of our town – Reading. Which are the shameful, unmentionable parts of our town? The places no-one wants to live – let's live there. The people at school or work no-one wants to talk to – let's talk to them! Christians are attracted to injustice and pain. We can't help it! It's in our DNA!

Feet is the opposite of head – this challenges the power-narrative which says that the way you change a place is by having friends in high places. Jesus teaches that the way you change a place is by having friends in low places.

Jesus models true humility. It's possible to serve people and still leave them feeling patronised: the white saviours who go to Africa to help the "poor backward natives", or the middle class Christians who help some kids on the estate. You don't see that in Jesus: the context of John 13 is all sitting around together eating out of a common bowl – with the betrayer and with the broken – all together.

The genius of the church is that because we are together at a horizontal table, we show each other our scars, our wounds, our mess, and we don't judge each other. And we know that our feet need washing. And so what we do to others is what we have done to ourselves.

Let's allow Jesus to wash our feet. Let's wash the feet of our town.

Suggested Questions:

1. Does anyone have a "bless-timony?" Who have you BLESSED this week?
2. What most impacts you about the story of Jesus washing his disciples feet? Why?
3. "this challenges the power-narrative which says that the way you change a place is by having friends in high places. Jesus teaches that the way you change a place is by having friends in low places." Do you agree? Why/ why not?
4. How can we wash the feet of Reading?
5. Continue to pray and discuss the ways in which you can BLESS your community. Is there a Christmas event you could do together as a Life Group? Any other ideas?