



#Follow

22-Mar: Following A Servant

Series Summary: To be a Christian is to be a believer and follower of Jesus. But how are we following Jesus in our day-to-day lives? In other words, in order to follow Jesus, and model our lives after him, we must do what? I believe one of the key answers to that question is serving. To follow Jesus we must serve.

Big Idea/Question: In order to follow Jesus, and model our lives after him, we must do what? A key answer that can not be ignored- is to serve!

GET THEM TALKING

To be a Christian is to be a believer and follower of Jesus. But how are we following Jesus in our day-to-day lives? In other words, in order to follow Jesus, and model our lives after him we must do what?

Leader Note/Transition: I believe one of the key answers to that question is serving. To follow Jesus we must serve. We cannot follow a Messiah that served so many without serving being a part of our lives as well.

Passage Context: Jesus had just predicted his future betrayal and death on the cross. The disciples were having a hard time understanding why this had to happen, or even what Jesus meant. To make things worse the Apostles also misunderstood the humble servanthood mindset that Jesus wanted them to adopt. We know this because they were arguing over who would be the greatest (famous & respected).

Mark 9:33-35 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” **34** But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. **35** Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

What was wrong with the disciples arguing over who would be thought of as the greatest? How did this miss the message that Jesus preached?

What did Jesus mean when he said “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all”?

Leader Note (answer): remember that in vs 33 the disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in the Kingdom. They falsely associated greatness with fame, power, and praise. Jesus wanted them to redefine what it meant to be great. Greatness according to Jesus’ example was measured in humility, obedience, and servanthood.

Jesus was the embodiment of a servant leader. What do you think it means to be a servant leader?

Leader Note: The key to understanding what a servant leader is and is not is to recognize that servant comes before leader. If we are not willing to serve then we will be unable to lead like Jesus. Paul expounds on how Jesus was a humble servant of all in Phil 2:1-11.

VIDEO TEACHING

How was Jesus a servant to all?

Matt 9:35

He looked for needs to be met. Jesus did not wait for the needs of people to fall at his feet. He sought out people. He actively sought out the needs of other people to be met.

Why was Jesus a servant to all?

Matt 9:36

Because he loved people. If you truly love people you will not be able to turn a blind eye to needs.

Jesus' life of a servant (servant leader) is not just a nice example.... It is a calling on our lives. It is part of the ministry of the great commission that he entrusted to us.

Matt 9:37-38

You are the workers! Not your parents or your group leaders... you are the harvesters.

Serving >> Evangelism: We ultimately show the love of God by serving people so that we can share the love of God (the Gospel).

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Jesus a Servant Leader)

Read John 13:1-17 together as a small group.

Vs 8: Why do you think Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet?

Leader Note (answer): Jesus was the rabbi (teacher) of the group. In Jewish culture, this was a highly respected role. The rabbi would never be expected to wash the guest's feet upon entering a home. Instead, that job was left to the lowest servant in the household as a way of showing hospitality.

Washing feet was a very common and practical household task when the guests would come over in Jesus' time. The task would often be done by the youngest child or servant. What is the modern-day equivalent of washing feet? What does it look like for us to humbly serve in our homes?

Leader Note: We want students to understand that having a lifestyle of servanthood is accomplished through small humble tasks. It means looking for needs and meeting needs as they arise. The vast majority of the time those tasks will be small and mundane. That is okay. We can show Christ love in the small and mundane tasks!

What was Jesus teaching his disciples by washing their feet?

Vs 15-16: Jesus made it very clear to us that we are not above serving, including the very humble tasks that we may believe are below us. Why is it so important that we do not pridefully believe that a task or serving role is below us?

Jesus wanted to remove any excuses we may use for serving others. What excuses do we sometimes use to not serve?

Vs 17: Jesus claimed that we will be blessed if we choose to serve others. How could humbly serving others be a blessing?

Leader Note (answer): Some of the most miserable people in the world are those who believe the world revolves around them. If the world revolves around you then every relationship in your life will crumble. It is only when we choose to humbly serve and put others' needs first that we find lasting joy. The world is no longer centered around us, and we see the blessings in newfound joy and meaningful relationships.