

Week 7

Love Compels Us (1)

Service

"Jesus took a towel and a basin and redefined greatness." -Richard Foster, "Celebration of Discipline"

The scene referred to in this quote comes from John 13:1-17. The opening verse in this passage says,

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love."

Then Jesus gets up from the table, puts on servant clothes, and washes each disciple's feet. The visible, tangible incarnation of love is service to others. Service is an attitude, a way of life. Jesus taught that greatness in the kingdom consisted in being last, being servant of all.

To serve someone else means that we joyfully place their needs, their interests, their priorities above our own. There is no room for bickering about fairness or rights. Service is the willing stepping down from our self-appointed positions of superiority.

Jesus teaches us that the one washing feet and the one hosting the banquet are equal in status and value. Often times this is not true in the world, but in the kingdom, things are different. To serve one another we must embrace the sufficiency of God's grace. We must embrace being valued by God alone, because the world values status, position, and popularity. God values service.

To serve one another we must also abandon our addiction to be in control. When we serve others, we willingly and happily let go of our agenda to embrace the needs of the moment.

Service begins in our hearts with attitudes of love. Pay attention to your inner need for recognition, attention and your motivations to please people.

This Week:

- Look for opportunities to serve, pay attention to the needs of the moment. Pray each morning, "Lord open my eyes to the needs of others, open my agenda to the priorities of others."
- Make plans today to serve someone this week.

Week 7

Feb 14-20

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			14
Valentine's Day				
Mon	Gen 45	1Pet 4	Psa 31	15
Tue	Gen 46	1Pet 5	Psa 32	16
President's Day Observed				
Wed	Gen 47,48	2Pet 1	Psa 33	17
Thr	Gen 49,50	2Pet 2	Psa 34	18
John Dunham				
Fri	Ex 1,2	2Pet 3	Psa 35	19
Sat				20
Bob Simpson				