

The Key to True Greatness and Happiness

To find happiness, we need to first give it—even to those we don't think deserve it

Jesus' life is the greatest example of what it means to really love people. Sometimes He was rejected and sometimes He was accepted. But He wasn't moved by either—He just kept on going because He knew He was called to love and serve others. He had a goal and a vision, and as believers in Christ, every one of us is called to love and serve others too. That's exactly why we're here.

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He was doing more than wiping away some dirt. It was a deliberate act that spoke volumes both then and still today.

In Jesus' day, there were servants who washed the feet of guests because everybody wore sandals and the roads were very dusty and dirty. I imagine those servants were considered the lowliest of the low, even among all the servants in the house. But John 13:4 says that Jesus "got up from supper, took off His garments, and taking a [servant's] towel, He fastened it around His waist" (AMP).

Shocking, isn't it? I mean, quite a few gasps must have gone through the room. But Jesus went right on doing what He was doing. Verse 5 says, "He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the [servant's] towel with which He was girded."

What's even more shocking is that Jesus washed *all* of their feet—including Judas'.

Whose Feet Are You Willing to Wash?

A lot of us are willing to wash some feet but not others.

Let me explain. At a recent conference in Texas, I had three people join me on stage for a foot-washing. One of them was a famous worship leader. It wasn't really hard to wash *his* feet. After all, he's a cool guy, and most people would jump at the chance to spend time with him. It's easy to do things for people we want to impress.

But here's the thing: God wants us to treat everyone the same.

The second person in line was somebody I didn't know and might never see again. When it comes to reaching out to people like that, we're much more likely to think, *Well, why should I get involved? Surely they have friends or family who can help them out.* But we have to be very careful not to ignore the strangers God puts in our path.

Now, there's one more category of people I felt I had to address, and that's family. So I went ahead and washed my husband's feet too. I wanted to make the point that if we're willing to serve in a ministry in church, we should be willing to serve our family in private.

God wants us to go into every relationship thinking how we can make *their* life better.

Jesus said, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31, NIV). We can turn things around in our little corner of the world if we just take the first steps.

What's Good for God Is Good for You

In John 13, when Jesus had finished washing the disciples' feet, He said to them, "Since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you" (vv. 14-15, NLT). In other words, He's saying, "Because I have been a servant, you should be one too."

Our natural bent may be to look after our own needs first, but the Bible shares an important secret with us. In verse 17, Jesus said, “If you know these things, blessed and happy and to be envied are you if you practice them [if you act accordingly and really do them]” (AMP). What we so often fail to realize is that if we would simply do what we can to meet the needs of others, we will be blessed and happy.

So today I’m challenging you to step out of your comfort zone and get creative. Think of a few ways you can help the different kinds of people God puts in your life.

I can tell you from experience, you’ll be a much happier person when you’re living to love and help others.

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