

Leader's Guide

JESUS TEACHES US... ABOUT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

September 24, 2006
John 13:1-11

LEADER'S GUIDE
for small group
discussion prepared
to aid you in digging
deeper and taking to
heart what we are
exploring on
Sunday mornings.



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Overview

This passage is well known: Jesus washes the feet of His friends. However, what is often missed is the magnitude of what Jesus is showing us about Himself. He is the God who serves. That is who He wants to be to us.

Walk it through

The "million dollar question" opener is simply to stir the thought: What would we do if we had power, and resources, and freedom? Typically, the answer to such a question is *not*, "I'd serve others!" But as you begin to dig into John 13, you will see that is exactly what Jesus does . . . with all His resources.

Notice carefully what we are told Jesus "knows." He is sure of His identity and relationship with the Father; He is certain of the power and glory the Father has given Him. And He is sure that one of those in the room would betray Him. And, with all that knowledge and power at His disposal, what does He do? He washes feet!

Don't lose sight of the fact that this is not merely a "random act of kindness" for Jesus. He doesn't just arbitrarily pick something to do. The disciples' feet were dirty; they needed washing. No one else was interested in doing the "dirty work." Jesus, in love, not only could but *did* the loving thing. Why? Because *that's the kind of person He is*.

Although Jesus did wash His friends' feet because they were dirty and they needed it, the real reason He washed their feet was because of *who He is!*

So, how about it? Is that how you approach Jesus? Do you come to one who serves? Jesus said that the greatest in the Kingdom is the servant of all (Mark 10:43-45); He was talking about Himself. You can't approach Him any other way.

Discussion Guide

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Thinking it through . . .

I know it's a "popular dream," but the question still raises appropriate issues: What would you do if you won a million dollars?

What does this have to do with John 13? Does someone win a million bucks? No, but read John 13:1-11 with an eye on what Jesus "has."

What does Jesus know? What is He certain of?

What do you think most people would do with the kind of power, knowledge, and resources that were at Jesus' disposal? (Now the "million dollar question" comes into focus! What would *you* do if you were in Jesus' situation?)

Why does Jesus do what He does?

What difference does this make?

It is important to note that Jesus doesn't just arbitrarily do this; He washes feet because *that's the kind of person He is!* Do you relate to Jesus as if He really does desire to serve you? If not, why not?