

Love

Many words have been written and spoken about Jesus' washing his disciples' feet. Such an act from someone of Jesus' status was not just uncommon but entirely unheard of. No wonder his disciple, Peter, interrupts him. Not only was this an act of remarkably humble service, but it was also done for those who, in many cases, are the hardest to serve in that way — those closest to us. And in that very place, with dusted knees and wet hands, he speaks this new command to his disciples — “Go and do the same.”

Read John 13v34

Discuss the Scripture

- 01 Consider what Jesus meant by this being a *new* command. How is his love different from other forms of love?
- 02 Take a few moments to mentally note or even write down the different ways Jesus loved people in the Gospels. Which examples of his love most challenge or confront you?
- 03 If you were to survey your life, what are your guiding criteria for who you consider “worthy” of your love and service?
- 04 What is one practical step you could take this week to demonstrate love and humility in the way Jesus did?

Discuss the Practice

- 01 What did you decide to do for your one act of service this week?
- 02 How do you commonly show love to those around you? Is this type of practical service more unnatural or natural for you?
- 03 How does serving someone you know well differ for you from serving someone new or unfamiliar? Which is more difficult for you?
- 04 What other inner or outer barriers make it difficult for you to serve others in genuine love? How might you address these barriers in the coming week?

Repeat the Exercise

For this week, we invite you to repeat the exercise on page 29, or to try the reach exercise there if you have not already.