# **Service**

Biblically, we are called to serve one another in love (Gal 6:2). What does serving look like? Consider Jesus when He washed His disciple’s feet.

John 13:5-17

*“5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” 7 Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter.” 8 Peter said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” 9 Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, [then wash] not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” 10 Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all [of you.]” 11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.” 12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined [at the table] again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for [so] I am. 14 “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor [is] one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”*

Its difficult to understand how the King of the universe, the uncreated creator, the Lord of all, would come down in human flesh and dwell among us (John 1:14). It is even more difficult, as the disciples showed in John chapter 13, that Messiah Lord would humble Himself to the lowliest of jobs, washing dirty feet.

Peter’s initial response seems reasonable, given what they have been experiencing for the last three years. God had given them the authority to cast out demons, heal the sick, and preach about the Kingdom. And now, Jesus pauses, removes his outer garments, and washes everyone’s feet? This seems to make no sense. That is unless you see the bigger picture. Washing feet is small compared to what was about to come: the cross. We have the complete story, but they were living in real-time with Jesus. Even though Jesus often mentioned what was coming, they couldn’t wrap their heads around it. They didn’t understand the depths of His love.

As New Testament Saints, we must come to embrace His love for us. We can’t become casual and allow this to slip by us. The greatest form of love is laying one’s life down for their friends (John 15:13-14). As such, having a servant mindset, becoming all things to all people (1 Cor 9:22), is critical for us as Saints. We must remember who God is and who we are. Service should not be fabricated. Instead, it is grown out of a deep love and appreciation for all God’s creation.

Consider Jesus’ baptism:

Matthew 3:13-17

*“13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan [coming] to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” 15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit [it] at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him. 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove [and] lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”*

What do you notice in this passage? Why does Jesus get baptized? Who is Jesus in this passage? What is His relationship with Father God?

As we surrender our rights and embrace our brokenness, we can experience His strength (2 Cor 12:9-10). We will adopt a similar mindset to Jesus, serving those around us. The Christian’s life is not stagnant or self-serving. It is not to gain wealth or worldly pleasures. It’s to present the Kingdom of God to everyone in every aspect of our lives. We haven’t arrived yet! This is why we need to take up our cross daily. We must embrace a lifestyle of growth and healing toward intimacy with Jesus.