

Group Resource

**Sermon Notes – Sunday, November 18, 2012**

**ONE ANOTHER**

**Message:** “Follow His Example”

**Scripture:** John 13:1-17; 1 Peter 4:8-11

Jesus expects Christians to follow His example of servanthood as part of our debt of love to God. Jesus willfully took off his robe and served his disciples by washing their feet and instructs us to do the same to others.

- I. We model what we celebrate. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus didn’t celebrate the outward things that most people were focused on such as position and prestige. Rather, Jesus celebrated a lifestyle of servanthood.
- II. The classic example of servanthood can be found in the example of Jesus washing the disciples feet. Through this humble act, Jesus was showing the disciples “the full extent of his love.” (John 13:1)
- III. We learn from Jesus’ example that no one is above serving others. (John 13:16) No servant (us) is greater than his master (Jesus), nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
- IV. How do we wash one another’s feet?
  - a. **1 - Recognize that for each and every gift, there is a requirement from God.** As the church, we have rightfully talked about all of the blessings that God gives us, but we have forgotten that every blessing comes with responsibility. We have a responsibility to use whatever gift that we have received from God to serve others. (1 Peter 4:10)
  - b. **2 - True Servanthood requires total submission.** Submission requires us to know who we are in Christ – but we must be willing to lay down earthly position and authority for the glory of God. This posture doesn’t change who we are in God’s eyes, but it humbles us before others. Jesus identity wasn’t based on what His enemies said about Him but his identity was based on His call from God. (Php 2:4-8)
  - c. **3 - Be careful what we put in the water while washing other’s feet.** For some of us, we need to focus on HOW do we serve? We have to examine whether our service is rooted out of a loving heart for God or out of compulsion. We hinder God’s grace if we wash others feet with boiling or ice cold water.
    - i. We must ask ourselves: do we serve only when it is convenient? Do we serve only when it doesn’t require sacrifice? Do we serve so that others won’t bother us about giving more? Do we serve only to be recognized?
    - ii. Instead, we should serve like Jesus served. As God gives us grace, we are to faithfully administer God’s grace to others by our servanthood. (1 Peter 4:10)
  - d. **4 - A Servant must accept their call to be accountable to a higher standard.** Humility always brings elevation, although not always in the timing that we would like. When Jesus humbled himself, God, the Father, gave him the name that is above every name (Php 2:9-11). God’s system is that whoever wants to be great must be a servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all (Mark 10:43-45)
- V. The greatest posture of Christians is not parading around in the royal robes, but willingly laying down our robes and serve one another.

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## Let's Talk Notes – Week of November 18, 2012

**Message:** “Follow His Example”

**Scripture:** John 13:1-17; 1 Peter 4:8-11

- 1) As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, share one thing about your relationship with God that you are thankful for. Also, share one aspect of your real.life group that you are thankful for.
- 2) What is the most challenging aspect of servanthood for you?
- 3) What stood out to you from the example of Pastor Joseph washing Pastor Michael's feet?
- 4) **Read Ephesians 2:3-4.** How does selfish ambition and vain conceit hinder our ability to serve others in the way that Jesus modeled for us? How do we consider the interests of others in a balanced approach? What are some practical steps that you can implement to improve your serve?
- 5) The church should be a model to the world of servanthood, in which, people are encouraged to use their God-given gifts in service to the kingdom of God. While the church is not the only place that we can serve, it should be a priority in our lives. How are you currently serving at Mars Hill Fellowship Church? Are there more opportunities that you can serve or ways in which you can improve how you serve? What about serving in other areas of your life?