

October 29, 2017  
SOMA: Serve One Another  
John 13: 12-17

**Pastor:** We're on the series on the body of Christ, why we're we all we doing because Jesus said to profound things about the church. That is the church is the best polemic or defense of the church and of our faith and the church is also the best form of evangelism that is by how we treat one another. You said if people see you love each other as a community of faith a diverse group of people brought together it's simply in Jesus name, it will have a profound witness to those around you and around us.

If the church walks in unity together, if people see this diverse group of people walking in utter unity, it'll be a powerful witness to the church and it will convince even though most are already critic and cynic that there is something real by Jesus. He brings everyone together if the church is the Church that Jesus envisioned.

If we embody certain qualities and traits, if we treat each other in a certain way and we have been looking at what would that look like. How are we treat each other? We reflect Jesus to others. We've learned that we are the Body of Christ meaning we are to do what Jesus did. We look at the original body of Christ Jesus and we simply do what he did. The book of Acts is all about God's people, the church, contain what Jesus that you see in the gospels. We are to make the world flat so people may see God's glory.

Secondly, we learned we need to love one another but not just in any way, we do to love others as Christ has loved us, which means it's sacrificial service for the good of others at personal cost. That's how Jesus loved us. We're called to accept one another and how did Jesus accept us. Well, there is the there's no conditions. The condition for acceptance is faith, faith in Jesus. If you believe in Jesus, you are accepted. We are called to accept each other then with no other conditions. We talked about walking in unity, how we're called to, as a diverse group of people walk in utter unity so that the world sees that God brings everyone together. This is the message that the world needs to hear, that Jesus brings everyone together.

We looked at our calling to come alongside each other's lives and help one another through encouragement. Encouragement can be both soft and hard. We need to hold each other accountable but gently but also lift each other up when we are down and struggling with things. We looked at restoration, how we're called to restore each other if we're suffering with overwhelming burdens or we're trapped by certain behaviors we just can't get out of, we're called to help each other out of our difficulties.

Today we're going to look at serving one another. What does it mean that we are called to serve of one another? I was looking at research and I found this a wonderful video. I want to ask you is this what the Bible means when it says we are called to serve one another? Could you roll the film?

[music]

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**Character 2:** Imagine a church where every member is passionately, wholeheartedly and recklessly calling the shots.

**Speaker 3:** I have a busy work week and by the time Sunday rolls around, I'm tired. How about a church service that starts when I get here.

**Speaker 2:** Can do. When you arrive, we begin.

**Speaker 4:** This guy, he plays by his own rules. We want to find a church where if he starts screaming, we're not the bad guys.

**Speaker 2:** Say no more. If your baby is screaming, you stay seated. The others around you can leave.

**Speaker 5:** Financially, Sherry and I don't give a lot to the church but we sure everyone does.

**Speaker 2:** All right if you join now, you will what every person gives in detail.

**Speaker 6:** When I'm in the church service, can my car get a bath and a wax?

**Speaker 2:** Not just that but an oil change and a tune-up.

**Speaker 7:** How about tickets to the Super Bowl?

**Speaker 2:** That's asking too much.

**Speaker 7:** I'm serious. If I'm going to join, I want tickets to the big game.

**Speaker 2:** All right, you join now and we'll get you there.

**Speaker 8:** I like a pony.

**Speaker 2:** Look in your backyard. The church where it's all about you.

[music]

**Pastor:** The Church is Jesus and the reason is, if we're truthful, that probably is closer to how most Christians or **[unintelligible 00:05:21]** behave or how they approach church, than how Jesus teaches in the church. If you want to look at what serving one another looks like, there's no better place to go than in John 13, where we get a look at what the true church is called to be. It's not going to be a me but a we church, or not even a we but the Him church.

John 13, "Jesus washed His disciples' feet." We're going to look at that story. Now, when did he wash his disciples' feet? That's really important. It was during the Last Supper, the night before His death, which means this was the last training session that he had with His disciples before He sent them out to reflect and represent Him. Now, imagine if you're Jesus and you're trying to figure out, "How can I capture my ministry in a nutshell?" What would you have done? What would you have told the

disciples? What Jesus did was He washed His disciples' feet. Why did He do that? What did He try to tell us about following Him?

I think what they're quick to tell us is the importance of service in our lives. If the last training session Jesus had was about service, it would tell me that as a follower of Jesus, service is incredibly important in my life if I'm going to follow him. Then in verse 34 of John 13, Jesus tells us what He meant by it. He says this, "A new commandment I give you, love one another as I have loved you, so you must also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you will love one another."

Now, Jesus just could've told them that. It would have been even easier to say, "Hey, love you, man, love you." Why didn't He just tell them, "I love you. I love you guys, love being with you." He didn't. He didn't leave the disciples with an abstract concept of love or a propositional truth or a truth statement. Instead, He shows them, He gives them a picture of what service looks like and we know that pictures are worth a thousand words.

I think the really interesting thing is there's a huge connection between Jesus action and what he says and means. There's a huge connection between loving and serving and that they're inseparable. Love is expressed through action. If you love someone, you're going to show them. When I talk about service, I'm also talking about love because they are inseparable. Jesus washed His disciples' feet, actions service, but He says "It is an expression of my love for you." There is a connection, they're interwoven.

When you talk about one, you're talking about the other. In fact, we defined love, about the second week in the series, as service for the good of others at personal cost. What kind of service? It's not any service, it's not just doing nice things for others but it's a type of service and the type of service is captured in Jesus washing disciples' feet. We're going to read that. Then look at what type of service does God desire for us to express to one another.

Here is what it says, "When He had finished washing their feet, He put on his clothes and returned to his place." "Do you understand what I've done for you?" He asked them. "You call me teacher and Lord in then rightly so for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Let's pray. Lord help us now to take **[unintelligible 00:09:26]** meditate, slow down, mull it over and see what kind of service do you want us to express to each other. Why did you pick feet of all things, washing nasty feet? What does it say to us and how do we apply it in our lives, teach us Lord we pray in Jesus' name and all God through I've prayed.

The first thing I think Jesus tried to get across as why he washed feet was that service is selfless service, not self for service but selfless service. It's less of self.

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True service has nothing to do with you or is not to be of benefit to us. The intent is not to make us feel good or to look good or to merit good or somehow we merit God's blessings, it should have nothing to do what it does for us, it is not that we should benefit from it, it's selfless. The self is not involved or shouldn't be involved.

Now, there are a lot of ways Jesus could express this though, ways He could love them a little more pleasant, a little less repulsive than feet, a little more hygienically safe and enjoyable. He could have told disciples, "I'm going to wash your hair instead." Then He'd have said, "Now that your Lord and teacher have washed your hair, you should also wash one another's hair." That would have radically changed Good Friday services. We'd improve Good Friday service attendance because when we reenact hair washing, we could set up an entire salon in the gym and it would go over so much better than trying to mimic washing each other's feet.

Why did He choose feet? When we think of feet, it's not how our feet look. Our feet are wonderful. Our feet are clean. Right now, this is the average middle eastern feet. If you witness what your feet would look like if you walk every day around in the sand and dirt out there, that's the kind of feet Jesus faced. Now, Why? What is He trying to tell us? One reason is because feet are dirty and smelly, nasty, disgusting [chuckles], they're grimy. I think that's the point He's trying to make is, "Hey, if you're going to serve me and you're going to serve others in my name, then there can't be anything below you or beneath you, you are willing to do."

That we're not called to serve in ways that we find pleasant to us or that we find enjoyable or necessarily fit. I hear, "That would have fit my gifts." As much as we use fitting our gifts, it's just a waste. "I want something that's convenient and comfortable for me." We're not to simply serve in ways that are easy for us or that's comfortable for us. We're going to serve in ways that may be very unpleasant, that we don't like, that we find hard and beyond our ability. That's the kind of service God calls us to, not just things that we find enjoyable or that we like or fits our timetables.

Secondly, He picked feet because feet are the least favorite part of the human body. When polled-- That happens over and over again, when polled and women are asked, "What's your least favorite part of your body?" Invariably, most women say, "Feet." I'd actually admit I hate my feet too. They're ugly boats. They are. They're as flat as a pancake. The point then that Jesus is trying to make and why he picked feet versus hair is we are called not just to love people we are attracted to, or we're not just to serve the parts of people's lives and personalities that we like or find nice, but we're called to love those were not attracted to or we don't sync well with or there's no real connection force.

We're called to be involved in the ugly parts of each other's lives. The dirt and the grime. Jesus plunged His hands and His face into the dirt and grime of people's lives. We're called to do the same. Sometimes that's not pleasant and sometimes that's not attractive. This is cultural because we live in a culture that defines love as attraction. When we see someone that we are attracted to, we want to be with them. We believe we love them. We say, "Hey, I love you. I want to be with you. I want to be your friend." Even may come down to, "Hey, I want to be your spouse."

What Jesus is saying here is if you have His love, you'll be able to love people you aren't attracted to. That you'll be able to love the parts of people that are hard to love. That you won't limit yourself to service that you find enjoyable or meaningful or easy because it's not about you. Christian service is selfless. It's not about you. When you serve that way, you draw closer and closer and closer to Christ like this. When you don't, when you serve in selfish ways then you draw closer, closer, closer to the culture's way of looking at life.

Why do we struggle with this? Why is it so hard to serve selflessly? The answer is because we are a big bundle of needs. We have a need for approval, affirmation, we got a need for feeling safe and feel loved and cherished, significant, important and when the human soul senses someone who has the ability to meet those needs, we become attracted to them. You feel this pull, you want to be their friend, maybe want to date them or maybe one day marry them. It's not just romantic love I'm talking about. I'm talking about love in general. Now, we call this culturally love. But is it? Is it love?

I find C.S. Lewis one of the most profound thinkers ever and you're going to get Lewis now. I warn you now, you're going to hear Lewis, Lewis, Lewis because he's a profound thinker. Here's what he had to say about this, we're reflecting this passage. "In human life," now listen to this very carefully, "In human life, we see the passion to almost digest one's fellows. To make his or her intellectual life, emotional life, spiritual life, personality an extension of our own. On earth, we call this love but in hell, they know what it is and it's called hunger."

Oftentimes, when we feel that we love a person, what we're really meaning is we like being around the person because they make us feel better about ourselves, smarter than we feel we are, they make us feel happier, more confident, we're made more able to face the world, and we loved them for what they do for us? Meaning, if we think about it, we're really loving ourselves through that person. We are assessing what we need by being around that person and that's not love. Not according to Christ. That's hunger, it's not love.

Our culture teaches us to find people who meet your needs and make them your friend or even marry them. Jesus says no. Love is washing people's feet. It is servers for the good of others at personal cost with no regard to your gain or any benefit. Real love serves regardless of what we get. It serves the unattractive. It serves in ways that are unpleasant and unenjoyable. Real love is not about me getting my needs but me beating other's peoples' needs. It's not about me becoming complete, it's me completing others. It's figuring out what someone else needs in meeting those needs, devoid of any benefit for myself.

There are basically two offering principles in this world. I get this from **[unintelligible 00:18:21]**. I love his work, love his books. He says here, "You have basically two offering principles in this world. There is your life for mine principle or my life for yours." The your life for mine principle is that you got into relationships and you stay in this relationships as long as the person meets your needs and when that person no longer meet your needs, you're out of there. We're taught this way by our culture. We are taught to get into relationships that fulfill us, that enable us to meet and reach our goals, to help us reach our full potential, to acquire our dreams and this

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infects the church. We get saved, we live this culture when we become Christians but we bring this into the church.

You see through the funny old film, the me church, but a lot of Christians both evaluate churches and worship according to your life for mine principle. Meaning we tend to look at churches and say, "Okay, what kind of program do they have?" "How are the bathrooms?" "This is why I like the sanctuary." "What's the **[unintelligible 00:19:38]** look like?" "Is the signage good?" "Is the food good?" We have all lots of this. "Is the preaching good?" "Do I like the pastor?" "How about the children's minister? Is there a children's minister?" All these things we used to evaluate churches whether or not we want to go there because a lot of this, "How does this benefit me?"

We approach worship that way as well. That I guess there's more church conflict over the worship service than any other thing because people say, "Well, I don't like the hymns." Or, "I don't like the contemporary songs." Or, "I don't like the drums." Or, "I don't like how long the messages are." We have this loathing, "I don't like this and I don't like this. I don't like this." I have news for you, worship is not about you, is it?

If we're really honest as Christians, we should stop calling it a worship service and call it what it is for most people. That is a worship selfish because it's about us but not about Him and is supposed to be about Him. It's not what I get out of it, not if I'd like the songs. Who cares if you like the songs, we're not singing to you, are we? This is how it infects the church. We make worship about us, what I like, what I get out of it. Why do people say they leave churches? Most often, "I don't feel fed." I've heard this from people who've been in churches and Christians for 30 years. My reflection to you is how long are you going to be a spiritual infant? How long? By 30 years, you should be feeding yourself and feeding others.

What's this idea I don't feel fed? What it is you're saying is my needs aren't being met so I'm out of here. That's the your life for mine mentality. That the world and it's infected the church as well. It affects how people serve. We serve if the time in my life is right, if I find the service meaningful, if I'm comfortable, if I could resonate with it. We don't mind being served, we do mind serving. That's why 20% of people still do 80% of the work. That's why because we're living in the mean church, and not the kind of church that God wants. It's about Him and not about us.

There's another way to living and it's your life for mine. That's all what Jesus did. He got into the disciples in my life for yours. Even though the world pushes on us the your life for mine, the reality is life works better with the other operating principle, your life or mine. I'll tell you, we know this intuitively, we don't think about it. You wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for people in your life who did not live the my life for yours. It's impossible. First for you to be alive, a woman had to sacrifice her body, allow you to attach yourself to her inners and start sucking the life out of her [laughs], right? She willingly did that and some of them, that affects your body for the rest of your life, there's stretch marks.

I won't tell you what all the effects of pregnancy are or can be but they can directly affect your life the rest-- But for you to be alive, someone had a sacrifice her body for you, and their time and their health. Sometimes they puke it up. It's not pleasant.

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Therefore, it takes more than that. Once you're born, it takes a set of parents who give up their freedom, give up their sleep, amen, who sacrifice time and energy and attention and they sacrifice their heart, they can be hurt, can be broken. They've sacrificed their mental stability because kids could frustrate you. Parenting is one sacrifice after another after another after another.

If you did not get that, if you grew up in a home where your parents did not live out the my life for your principle, if they didn't sacrifice their agenda and their time and their emotions and their discernment of what would make you thrive, if they didn't sacrifice some aspect of career advancement, if you grew up at a home where you didn't have parents who sacrificed for you, I guarantee something, you are suffering for it now. You will suffer with it for the rest of your life. I know some of you have and I know some of you are.

I have an interesting book that changed my life. If you're having marital problems, if you have a wayward child or if you're in upper management and your company is struggling, I encourage you, get this book called *The Anatomy of Peace*. It's by the Arbinger Institute. What I find interesting about the Arbinger Institute is they're no Christians at all, none of them. I think they come across as Hindus. They stumbled upon this principle, discovered that companies struggle, especially large companies and fall and go out of existence because of the selfishness of leadership.

That is like most decisions are made not what's the best for the company, but what's the best for the leader so they can maintain their position and their job or to protect their unit or protect their division. It affects companies and then they go into these companies and try to show the leaders what they do is really more based upon their selfish motives than really what's good for the company and the good for the employees or the good for the customer. Once they help people discover what they do, the institute what call what I call the outward mentality. That is that you make decisions not based on what's good for you but what's good for others. They challenge the leaders to even risk their own jobs and position to make good decisions for the company, they'll help it thrive.

We discover when they're able to take companies and change the mentality from your life for mine to a my life for your mentality, those companies thrive and people keep their positions. The company grows and they get more employees, as a result, all because they're in the discover even in the business world that the your life for mine mentality kills companies, that my life for you actually works. It works in your marriage, it works in raising kids, it works in corporate America.

When you begin to live like this, it feels like you are having a death experience. You feel a death and everyone, the CEO, the middlemen and people in trying to really make decisions that's good for the company, whether for themselves it felt as though they were so fearful, scared to death they're going to lose their job. It felt like a death. It will feel like a death to you but it actually will be life. It will be life for you. C. S. Lewis again has something very profound about this.

Another way that my life for your really works in real life. Listen to this carefully, from the highest to the lows of us, the self-exists to be educated of the throne and by this advocacy, self becomes more truly itself. This is not a law to which we can escape.

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The only thing outside the system of self-giving is hell. Hell's fiercest imprisonment of self-absorption. No, you must get into self-giving or else you are on your way towards the hell of self-absorption. If you know anyone who's self-absorbed, that's exactly true. They are the most caustic destructive people on planet.

Paul even warns about this Galatians. He says, "My brothers and sisters, you are called to be free but do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh," meanwhile, what is that? That's the your life for mine mentality. That's getting into meet my selfish needs, "Rather, serve one another humbly in love." That's the my life for you, "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command, love your neighbor as yourself." If you choose the other way indulging yourself, if you bite and devour each other, watch out for you will be destroyed by each other.

What he's saying is that your life for mine mentality results in a dog eat dog culture. It's climbing the corporate ladder of success and if it means climbing over you, I will. That's the culture it produces. Christian service is not like this. It is washing disciples feet. It is selfless service. Service for the good of others and not me. There's more to it though. It's also visionary service. It's possible for me to, "Okay, pastor, I'm going to do that. I'm going to serve others and their needs and forget about me. That's fine. It's all about you and all about meeting other people's needs, I can do that. We can do that very very well."

We can set ourselves aside and we can do all kinds of nice things and meet everyone's needs and our duty's over. We've done the good Christian thing. Is that true? You can do without even caring for a person, you can meet other people's needs and have no feelings for them at all. You can do that but is that Christian service though? It's service that Jesus is talking about. We've been told and we've heard this probably in many sermons, if you look at John 13: 34, you look at it really carefully, if you reason it out, you discover something about what love is. It says, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." That's a command, you must love one another. Now if love was an emotion and you could say, "Wait a minute." You can't command emotion. Emotions are automatic. They are things that we've just been programmed into. They're automatic responses. You can't command an emotion. It's impossible. It must mean that love is not emotion and that is true love. Love is an action. Love is a choice.

Is it only a choice? If it's only a choice to meet the needs of others, then it's an act of my will then. It has nothing to do with how I feel. Is that right? Does service engage the hearts? Probably if you've been married or have true friends, you know there are times when you have to love someone despite how you feel, right? There are times like that but is that the norm? Now, that's the rarity. The norm is the reason why you do good things to those you love is because you are passionate about them. Your heart is engaged and that's why Jesus washed disciples feet. It wasn't they just met their needs claim dirty feet.

He had a passion for them. His heart was engaged because He had a vision for their life. That vision you see in Peter's a reaction to Jesus. We didn't read it but I'll tell you what it is. Probably you already know what it is. Jesus tried to wash Peter's feet and Peter said, "Heck no, I'm not letting you do that." Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you will have no part of me." What? If I don't let you wash my feet, I'm not

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saved? That's what he's talking about. No part of me means there's no salvation for you. You're lost unless you let me wash feet. Is Jesus meaning literally if Peter doesn't let his feet get washed, he is out of the kingdom? No.

It's clearly Jesus is talking about something symbolically and that's why He washes disciples' feet. He washed the disciples' feet as an object lesson, as an experience of what He's about to do for them on the cross. That on the cross just as He washed the disciples' feet with water and took all the grime away, on the cross He's going to take all the dirt and all the grime that's in our hearts, in our lives and in our souls, the evil within, the darkness within. He wants to get rid of all the things that are wrong with us. Things that turn beauties into beasts and what He desires to do is turn beasts into build utter beauties.

*Beauty and the Beast* is a good film because it's all about how sacrificial love transforms a beast into a beauty and how the selfless life the your life for mine turns beauties into beasts. This vision that Jesus had is expressed in other places. Here's what He wants to do in our lives. Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy cleansing her by the washing with water through the word and represent her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish but holy and blameless. That's what Christ wants to do for you. He wants to produce a person who is radiant. No stain, no wrinkles, no blemishes. That's wonderful.

What did Jesus get out of washing His disciples' feet? Nothing. It's getting ready to be tortured put to death. It says chapter 10, He was even happy to do that. What? For the joys that's before Him, he's happy to suffer and die for us. Why? Because He had a vision for our life, because He knew something we did not know. That as if He could wipe out this barrier between us and God, if He'd reconnect the human soul with the Spirit of God, that the image of God that was buried in blood will come alive and be animated and we'll become people of utter beauty.

He knew that about us. He knew what He could do in the lives of people and they just get connected with God if He transformed and the utterly beautiful and wonderful. Do you serve that way? Do you serve in a way that you look, you have a vision for who you serve? That you have a view towards how your service affects the lives of others? Or is your service just a list of good deeds, just individual acts of kindness done because you're supposed to because pastor Richard said, "Serve one another", as it says in here in John 13, "Go serve one another." Is that how you see service or do you have vision for how your service shapes people's lives?

I know people are jaded. I know they are. I think one of the main reasons why people don't serve is because they're jaded because they really believed what they do doesn't matter. I think it's Satan's scheme just to whisper in your ears, "What you do doesn't matter." Why that is why we get discouraged is because most of our service is so selfish, meaning it's self-centered, meaning we have expectations towards those we serve.

If we serve people and they don't show us any gratitude, we go, "Phh, I'm out of here. Your life for mine? Is it my life for you or your life for mine?" If they don't come to know Jesus right away, "Phh, I'm out of here. It's a waste of time, it's a waste of

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money." Now, have you said that about serve? It's a waste of time, it's a waste of money because we don't see anyone come to know Jesus and no one's come to Church. It's a waste of time. Is it my life for you or my life for mine? Which one is it?

Now, I'll give you some good news. You may not hear about it but I just heard from the research that four [unintelligible 00:36:21] people at the last serve came to know Jesus are now being baptized at their church and are joining. There's more stories that not though. There are but we don't hear about them. Then because we don't hear about them, we get discouraged. We get discouraged, we don't want service as though we're not really sure what we do matters, but you never know. You'll never know the impact you have on people's lives, do you? Does it really matter? Think about it.

How many people, as result of Jesus' suffering and death, have not responded to Him with gratitude? How many people have not responded to Him by coming to know Jesus? How many? Did that keep Him from serving? Did that keep Him from going to the cross? Think about your own life. When did you become a believer? Somebody, give me a year. [unintelligible 00:37:14], when did you become a believer? What was the year? 1978. Jesus waited 1,978 years for you, for you to respond. Now, what age were you?

[laughter]

**Speaker:** I put him on the spot.

**Participant:** 20.

**Speaker:** 20. He served you and washed your feet for 20 years and no response. I was 13, 13 years and Jesus guides saw no results but finally, after 13 years, I responded. Now, could you serve people for 20 years seeing no results? Seeing none? Could you? Jesus did. Jesus did in your life and He waited for you. Now, you see the impact in your life. You don't know what kind of impact you're going to have in people's lives. Don't let the timing of it discourage you.

One more C. S. Lewis because I think it's profound. It will change your day, how you approach your day every day. C. S. Lewis says this, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, civilizations, they're mortal. When they cease to exist, they no longer exist but people are eternal. They have souls and thus they never die. They forever exist. Compared to people, nations are but nuts, they're mosquitoes. It is a serious thing."

Now, listen to this one, "It is a serious thing to know that the dullest of person," meaning the most unattractive person you know, "And the most uninteresting person you talk to or pass by may someday be either a person so utterly beautiful you'll be tempted to worship them or else a whore and corruption such as you be if at all in a nightmare." That we have the power through service to affect people in one direction or in the other direction, to be a Mother Theresa or to be a lost taker shooter. That's the impact of service. Do you see that you have a vision for that in your life?

Now, how do we serve like this because we struggle? Why do we struggle to serve this way? The answer is it's an economic thing. It's a simple economics and it really is. I won't elaborate longer. You cannot get what you do not have. It's simple economics. If you cannot pay for groceries, you won't be able to give and help feed others. If you can't feed yourself, you can't feed others. If you want to be a financial blessing but you don't have a money, you can't be a financial blessing. If you want to love people this way, you have to be filled with love, not just any love, you have to be filled with His love.

The reason why we struggle with loving and service **[unintelligible 00:40:21]** is because in reality many of us are empty. We love only those we attracted to and serve in ways we find enjoyable because we need the love of others to fill us up. We actually use people as commodities to meet our needs because we're empty, but Jesus offers a filling that Paul describes to the Christians as this, "His love has been poured into our hearts." Is there love of Christ poured in your heart? It's not a mental reality, I know that intellectually. It's an essential experience. It is something that's real to you.

Paul was saying, "If Christ love is not real to you, you will only be able to love those who will love you back and make you feel good and respond the way that makes you feel good and useful but that won't fill you. This is what inspired Jesus to wash the disciples' feet. Again, think of other people who are never grateful, all the people who never came to faith and He did it anyway. How? Because He was tapped in this endless stream of love.

If you want to give an endless stream of money to someone, you have to be tapped into an endless stream of cash flow. If you want to love like this, you have to be tapped into an endless flow of love.

If you're going love in this way, number one, you have to have faith in Jesus. You do, you have to put your faith in Jesus. They might say, "Well, no, He's an example, He's a good example. All I have to do is follow His example." No, He's not a good example, Jesus is not a good example here, He's a crushing example. You can't do this. If it were possible, we've had this example for 2,017 years. Having the example of Jesus in this passage for 2,017 years still today, only 20% of all Christians are involved in any form of service, 20%. We had the example of Jesus for 2,017 years.

The example of Jesus is not enough here. We need more and that is you need to see Jesus washing your feet. Not just know that He washed your feet, you need to see Jesus washing your feet. You have to see the God of the universe suffering on the cross and dying for you, taking away your sins and your infirmities and your darkness and all the things that are wrong with you.

Peter represents what the world does. Peter says, "No, don't wash my feet. I don't think I really need it." He was just too proud. We could be too proud, we don't want to admit we are weak or broken or that we need a Savior. We want to do our own saving, we want to run our own lives, we don't want God poking His nose into our dreams, to our agendas and, "Newsflash God, let me tell how I really feel. I don't think I'm that bad. I don't think people are that bad either." Because if we're really face with face in Jesus, we're with a meeting that we were so evil and so dark that

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the only remedy was the God of the universe had to suffer and die on the cross. It required the death of God and we don't want to need that. Until you do, until you let Jesus wash your feet, you will never tap into this endless love and you will never be able to serve this way.

I challenge you to, challenge to serve this way. Without that, let's see how well you do. Others like myself believe we were too bad for God. I knew as a sinner but I didn't know what to do about it and I don't think He could ever forgive me. The cross says I'm wrong. The cross says He knew-- The reason why He went to the cross is because He knew you're bad and He loved you anyway. If you feel that way, Jesus comes to you on the cross saying, "My life for you. That's so much I love you. My life for you."

Lastly, and then you can only put your faith in Jesus **[unintelligible 00:44:13]** in His love. When you worship, do you really worship? I want to embarrass somebody right now. I'm sorry, I'm about to embarrass someone. I love how Kellen worships. I notice her all the time. She just really gets into saying, "Yes, come on." She sings from her soul. That's what you need to do. You need to worship from your soul, you need to pray from your soul. When you get into Bible, really get in the Bible, experience God.

When you listen to music, musing your heart. When you see a film where there's a hero that sacrificed himself for the others, save yourself, that's what Jesus did for me, and repeated over and over and over, bathe your heart over and over and over again and the gospel into your heart is inflamed. He empowers you. When you tap into that stream of love, it'll come flowing out of you. We're going to do that. We're going to experience the cross all over again. When you sing, see Jesus dying on the cross for you. See Jesus washing your feet, and tap into the endless flow. **[unintelligible 00:45:20]** can you come and lead us in that one song, Jesus paid it all. All to him, I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow. Bathe yourself.

**[00:45:35] [END OF AUDIO]**