

Knowing Jesus as Servant
John 13 Discussion Questions
3/26/17

1. The disciples are confused about the foot washing (**vv.6-8**). Why would the disciples be surprised at Jesus washing their feet? Are you surprised or shocked that Jesus washed their feet? Why or why not?
2. One reason for the foot washing is it points to the cross. How does **John 13:1** and **13:7-8** indicate that this event ultimately points to the cross? Can you think of other connections or common themes between the foot washing and the cross?
3. A second reason for the foot washing is it provides an example to follow (**v.15**). Explain the argument Jesus makes in **verse 14**. Why is it important for the disciples to learn this lesson at this point?
4. What are some examples of ways you currently serve or have served the church. What are some benefits that come from serving God's people (**v.17**)?
5. It was suggested there are two extremes to avoid. The first extreme is to emphasize the example of Jesus but to de-emphasize the cross of Jesus. This is the extreme of theological liberalism that is favorable to the idea of following the example of Jesus, but seeks to get rid of the supernatural and "offensive" aspects of Christianity such as our need for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (substitutionary atonement). Have you experienced this tradition of liberal theology? What are the main problems/consequences with this approach?
6. The second extreme emphasizes how Jesus served us at the cross and de-emphasizes how we need to follow his example and serve one another. What is the problem with this extreme? Have you known anyone who had this mentality? Have you ever had this mindset?
7. How would **John 13:34** refute this extreme position that suggests serving is not necessary?
8. Read **John 13:35**. Explain how our love for one another will have an impact on the world around us. Have you seen positive examples of this? Have you seen examples of God's people failing to love one another and consequently having a negative impact on the watching world?
9. We see several reasons why serving can be difficult and what we should do when serving is difficult. First, serving can be difficult because we want honor right now. Luke and Mark help us understand that the disciples are arguing about who gets to be the leader. Jesus is teaching them to serve and that honor is often delayed (**v.36**). Have you ever tried to serve but it was difficult because it seemed like more sacrifice than honor/reward? Explain how a person can apply the gospel to keep going when he/she experiences this difficulty in serving.
10. A second reason serving can be difficult is because people are difficult. What are some ways Peter makes it difficult for Jesus to serve him? Peter ends up being a strong leader in the end because Jesus stuck with him and served him. Have you had people who have stuck with you even when it was probably difficult to serve you? Have you ever stuck with others when it was difficult to serve them?
11. Another example of a person who is difficult to serve is Judas (**v.21**). Why do you think Jesus serves Judas knowing Judas will betray Him? What are some lessons we learn from this? How can we apply the gospel in a situation where we have someone we know doesn't deserve to be served? (Hint: Have you ever been served by Jesus when you didn't deserve to be served?)