

ABOUT A GOD WHO SERVES YOU

Unexpected: a new commandment

“I give you a **new command**: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.” John 13:34

For the **whole law** is fulfilled in **one statement**: Love your neighbor as yourself.
Galatians 5:14

A God who serves

Jesus' servant heart

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end**. Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God... John 13:1-4

Heart of the disciples

...“What were you **arguing about on the way**?” But they were silent, because on the way they had been arguing with one another about who was **the greatest**. Sitting down, he called the Twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all.” Mark 9:33-35

Jesus' unexpected actions

- We need spiritual cleansing...the Cross
...So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand.” “You will never wash my feet,” Peter said. Jesus replied, “**If I don't wash you, you have no part with me.**” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” “One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.” For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” John 13:4-11

- We don't become less when we serve
When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing...said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? You call me **Teacher and Lord**—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am.” John 13:12-13
- Love others the way Jesus loved you
“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to **wash one another's feet**. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you.” John 13:14-15
- Don't panic: Judas' story is part of the plan
“I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen. But the **Scripture must be fulfilled**: The one who eats my bread has raised his heel against me. I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he.” John 13:18-19
- A new lifestyle
“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as **I have loved you**, you are also to **love one another**.” John 13:34

Why it's essential

“By this **everyone** will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:35

Do you understand?

And he took **bread**, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he also took the **cup** after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:19-20

Reflection Questions:

What does it look like when a person loves others the way Jesus loved them?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.