

Connecting with God: The Serving Heart

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 16, 2010

John 13:3-9,12-15

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10-11... 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

The Serving Heart...

1. **FEELS CLOSEST TO GOD WHEN THEY ARE SERVING OTHERS ON CHRIST'S BEHALF**

This person feels most connected to God through service.

To serve someone in the name of Christ is to love God Himself.

The Serving Heart is...

2. **MODELED BY CHRIST HIMSELF**

True servanthood is fueled by:

- KNOWING OUR POWER SOURCE
v. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power
- KNOWING WHOSE WE ARE
v. 3 Jesus knew that he had come from God
- KNOWING OUR PROMISED FUTURE
v. 3 Jesus knew that he was returning to God

The Serving Heart...

3. **EMULATES THE HEART OF CHRIST THROUGH SERVANTHOOD**

Matt 20:26-28

26... Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:14-15

14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

The Serving Heart can be vulnerable to...

**4. FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON TEMPORARY
PHYSICAL NEEDS RATHER THAN ETERNAL
REWARDS**

Mark 8:36

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Jesus didn't wash the disciple's feet because they had dirty feet!

He humbled Himself and washed their feet in order to demonstrate His great love for them.