



Radical - Part 3 - "The Language of Love"

John 13:1-7 NIV

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 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."

John 13:12-17 NIV

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. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Key Points

- We live in a culture where we will likely be taken advantage of, so it makes sense to "keep first" and experience the need to preserve.
- The posture to preserve finds its root in the soil of distrust.
- The gospel invites us to live differently amid a broken world filled with broken trust.
- If our posture isn't self-centered, then it must be directed outward.
- The expression of God's love is others-oriented and self-sacrificing.
- The exchange of love builds trust.
- We bear the integrity of His image and carry the influence of His love.
- To love is to know, and to know is to trust.
- As Christ-followers, our posture is to serve rather than preserve.
- A command to serve is understandable. But having your feet washed is unforgettable.
- What you're giving isn't a gift if you expect something in return.
- You get to know other people when you make yourself more available.
- You get to share responsibility when you trust others to take responsibility.

READ

Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- ***Read John 13:1-7. What is the significance that Jesus was the first and only person to get up and wash His disciples' feet, a duty relegated to a lowly servant?***
- ***Read John 13:12-17. What did Jesus want His disciples to understand about a posture of servanthood and how things were different in God's Kingdom?***

REFLECT

- ***How has living in a culture of distrust influenced your willingness to be others-oriented and self-sacrificing?***
- ***In what ways does the gospel invite us to live differently amid a broken world filled with broken trust?***
- ***What are some warning signs that one's posture is self-centered?***

RESPOND

- ***Are there relationships where broken trust exists? What part did you play in the brokenness, and how can you work toward forgiveness and reconciliation?***
- ***Where do you see a posture to preserve appearing in your life? What fuels your distrust and the pressure you feel to take control?***
- ***How can you take your focus off yourself and direct your focus outward to the needs around you?***

PRAY

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.