

John 13:1-17, “I am a servant most of all.”

Jesus gave us an example of how to serve others in John 13:1-17.

A. Love people persistently.

¹ Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

B. Expect conflict and opposition.

² It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

C. Understand the chain of command!

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

D. Pick a pathway of service.

⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist,
⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

E. Go “all in” with Jesus.

⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷ Jesus replied, “You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

⁸ “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!” Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me.”

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”

F. Clean up the filthiest part of your life.

¹⁰ Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.”

¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

G. Serve Jesus’ style.

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing?”

¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am.

¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.

¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.

H. Enjoy the blessings of serving.

¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, we embrace Your example of humble service as the pathway for us to follow. Set aside our pride and set our hands and feet to action. We want to love others persistently, show us how to do that Jesus! Amen.”