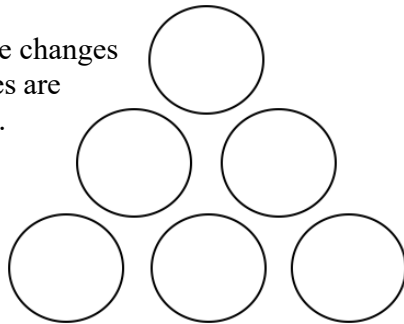


Deepest Principles

Two Things We Are Learning in This Series...

1. You can impress people at a distance. But you can impact them from up close. And the closer you are to them, the greater and more permanent the impact.
2. Although we learn in large groups, the changes that we would like to make in our lives are usually made because of relationships.



The Scriptures

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, ⁴so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist.” - John 13:3,4

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. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master; nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” - John 13:12-17

The Picture (Philippians 2:6-9)

He got up — He willingly left the Father's presence.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped...” - Philippians 2:6

He took off — (*tithemi*) He laid down His life.

“...but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!” - Philippians 2:7,8

He put on — (*lambano*) He took up His life.

“He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you...” - Luke 24:6

He returned to His place — He ascended into heaven.

“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name...” - Philippians 2:9

The Question

Do you understand what I have done for you?

“At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.” - John 12:16

- The best principles are taught through modeling.
- The best questions are asked and processed in small groups.

The Answer

The disciples called Jesus, “*Teacher and Lord.*” Note the order.

Jesus modeled humility but spoke boldly about His identity.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am.” - John 13:13

Sometimes we think humility is what you say, but humility is far more about what you do!

The Principle

Jesus called Himself the “*Lord and Teacher.*” Note the order.

Jesus must first be your Lord. Many people want to call Him “teacher”, but He can only be understood when He is Lord.

If the Lord can humble Himself, can’t we do likewise?

From this passage, some church groups (including our denomination) recognize feet-washing as an ordinance of the church.

But, Jesus actually said:

“I have set you an example that you should do (like) as I have done for you.” - John 13:15

This indicates that feet-washing today is probably not the real issue here, but that humility and serving one another is the principle.

Feet-washing is mentioned nowhere else in reference to the church, but it is a beautiful picture if Christians choose to celebrate it.

“...and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.” - 1 Timothy 5:10

The Challenges

As followers of Christ, we are not greater than He is, so therefore we should be willing to stoop before others and serve them.

“I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.” - John 13:16

“A student is not above his teacher; but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.” - Luke 6:40

As followers of Christ, we will be happy when we do the things that we know to do.

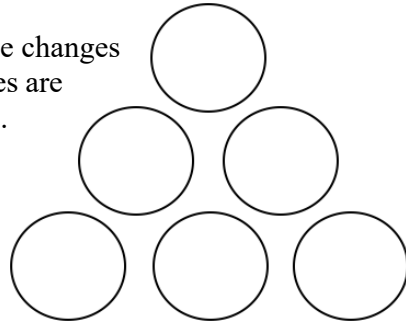
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