

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 1, 2020

Theme: Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth Topic: Spiritual Discipline: Service

Main Text: John 13:1-17; Colossians 3: 17 - 25

Key verse: Colossians 3:23 - 24: *'And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.'* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Service was at the heart of Jesus' life on earth: *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45). Men's motivation for service differ widely. Colossians 3:22 describes some of such service as eye-service and men-pleasing. Jesus left for us His followers, a model and challenged us to emulate Him. *"...If I then, 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 should do as I have done to you."* (John 13:14-15 NKJV). Jesus wants us to emulate Him when it comes to service.

1. **(a) Compare and contrast Jesus' motivation to serve with what often motivates humans to offer themselves up for service. See John 13:1; Colossians 3:17, 22 (b) Do you see any difference in what motivates us as believers to service from what motivates the people of the world? If not, what are some practical ways you and I can better serve like Jesus did?**

When you think of the word 'service' you will probably picture a waiter or servant performing a duty. However, a wider definition of service is that of 'work done by a person or group that benefits another; or an act of help or assistance.' This definition fits well with our text and Jesus' example and charge to His disciples (including us). Unlike the discipline of prayer and fasting, which the Lord said should be done in secret, service is largely outward and visible. And so, it can be quite a challenge to maintain a pure motive all the time. This is especially so when the recipient(s) of our service is someone 'lower' than us in the social ladder. Jesus' example in John 13:3 highlights this aspect *"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God"* (NKJV), rose to carry out a task usually reserved for the lowliest of slaves in a household – the washing of the dirty and dusty feet of guests. Jesus not only washed the feet of His servants, but He also washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, who would soon betray Him.

2. **(a) When you think about Jesus' example of service which we are called to emulate, how does that make you feel? (b) What does Jesus' washing of Judas' feet teach us about the whole discipline of service in our world today? (c) Let participants discuss what service based on Jesus' example would cost them in their context and situations. See John 13:3-5.**

Service, the Jesus way calls for putting aside of all the external things which define us – status, age, class, etc. (John 13:3-5). This putting off takes on a whole new level in close quarters like between a husband and wife, parents and children and employers and employees. And so, God gives us additional motivation to serve those who are closest to us, starting with *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* Colossians 3:17.

3. **(a) What makes living out a life of service in the home more difficult than outside the home? (b) What does a service done in the name of the Lord or that looks to God for its reward look like in the home and office? (c) How can we maintain this Jesus' type of service in the home, office all year through?**

Prayer: *Father, help us to show our love for You in our service at home and in the workplace. In Jesus Name, Amen.*