

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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April

Celebrating Thirty Eight Years of Service

2017

Dear friends,

As we prepare our hearts to worship Jesus in the Easter Season I would like to approach a portion of the Last Supper that I seldom hear much about. I'm not sure I have ever heard a sermon on FOOT WASHING! Now this is interesting to me because of memories from my childhood. Many years ago my mother attended a church that practiced foot washing as an ordinance along with baptism and communion.

I remember her being very upset because the friend she always washed feet with wasn't going to church that day and Mom might have to wash someone's feet she didn't know. I don't remember what happened but the point of foot washing seemed to have gotten lost in the ceremony. What I see here is that Jesus was trying to impress on his disciples to have a heart of service and not to dominate or 'lord' authority over those you lead.

Jesus repeated this teaching:

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:3-17

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.....When he had washed their feet and put

on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 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 also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

It is important for me to say I am not endorsing foot washing as a third church ordinance but, I am enthusiastic about having a servant's heart! In our culture, with all its emphasis on "Me, My, and Mine", it is easy to be caught up in the trends of today and forget what Jesus has taught us. It can be difficult to resist the prevalent attitudes that surround us. In my own life, I have been praying for a servant's heart!

How does a servant's heart appear in everyday life? In Philippians 2:3-5 (cev) Paul writes: *"Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves and think the same way that Christ Jesus thought."*

"Being others-focused instead of self-focused changes your worldview. Living in a selfless manner and seeking to help others enriches our very existence on a daily basis. Get your hands dirty once in a while by serving in a capacity that is lower than your position or station in life. This keeps you tethered to the real world and grounded to reality, which should make it harder to be prideful..."
Miles Anthony Smith

Thank you for all your love and care for those who receive help at Alpha. We cannot do this without you!
God Bless,
Richard