

Intro: The last time I saw my Mother two things happened:

- **She Asked Me: Are you losing weight?**
- **She cooked a meal for me...and served me: Could hardly walk, circulation problems...wanted to serve me: =Love!**

That is the essence of the passage of scripture we are going to look at today: John 13:1-35

1. First, Genuine Spiritual Service Originates in Love. 13:1-2

Passover: Largest Religious Celebration of Jewish Year: Celebrate God's Deliverance from Egypt

- **Dinner had started a little rough:**
~Argument: Who among us is the greatest!
~Lk 22:24 Second Time!
~Lk 9:46 already told them once!
- **At this point...(3 yrs...end of His ministry) They Still didn't get it!**
~Understood a lot: Knowledge, Ministry, OJT, Doctrine, Position,
- **One Thing they didn't have...They didn't have the right heart!**
~After 3 years, they still wanted to be important, leaders, great, influential, powerful
- **Jesus Performs this Incredible Action** (Jesus on Hands and knees: Washes dirty feet, Lowest servant in household)
- **Motivation described:** Loved them to the end (fullest, Completely, without reservation or hold back)
- **Don't Miss this...Vs 1-2 Everything that follows hinges on love!**

2. Genuine Service is the Result of A Deliberate Choice That We Make. Vs 3-11

A lot of times we act like we think serving God and other people...it will just happen.

Roll along in our lives, Not really thinking about it, not really planning to serve, if it comes, it comes, if not...so what?

Jesus Didn't Approach Service that way, He was very intentional, very deliberate, very engaged

- **7 Actions are Described here in Excruciating Detail**
Why? I believe John had relived this in vivid detail 1000 times afterward
ILLUS: *Ever make a mistake, embarrassed, ashamed about...what do you do afterward...Dissect, relive it*
- **7 Details:** Stood up; Laid Aside; took a towel; tied on waist; poured water; washed; wiped
~*Stood: You have to choose to get up, some of us equate spirituality with sitting listening!*
~*Lay Aside things that hold you back, hinder you (Pride, Love Other things, Time Committed elsewhere?)*
~*Prepare yourself (Towel, water)*
~*Be willing to do the dirty job no one else wants*
~*Finish the details*

Listen, Serving God and other people...it doesn't just happen. It happens when YOU Choose't stand up and say, I will
No one else is willing, no one else is available, no one else wants to...

The line is not very long, and the wait is not extended when you stand up to do a tough, dirty job!

Want to lead, want to be in charge, want to make decision, want to be influential...Get a buzzer and wait!

3. In Genuine Service, Action Precedes Understanding. Vs 12-17

Jesus asked them a question: "Do you understand what I have done for you?"

- **Set and Example:** (Living Illustration of Service)
- **Reminded you of your obligation:** (Ought=you owe a debt)
- **Highlighted the Need:** (People need to be loved)

There are some things that are caught...not taught! Servanthood is one of them!

ILLUS: This was always Jesus pattern

Mt 14:14 *Jesus Went, Saw, Compassion, Healed!*

You cant study your way into servanthood, Pray your way, Read bible into it

With Service, Action Precedes Understanding...It isn't until you DO IT, that You GET IT!

ILLUS: Nike had it right in this instance: Just do it

APPLIC: Couple of weeks I am going to challenge you to apply what we are studying

Temptation will be to say/Pray, "God, give me a heart of motivation, compassion, then I will serve

If you do that...it is unlikely that you will ever enter in. First Go, See, Take a Glimpse...God will burden your heart,

4. When There is No Service In our Spiritual Life, We Have A Heart Problem! Vs 31-36

We come up with all kinds of excuses: Time, Commitment, Work, Family, Ect, Ect (smoke screen, window dressing!)

Can I tell you...the issue isn't your calendar, not your time, not job, It's your heart!

APPLIC: I'm not a guilt guy, but...the Logic is very clear in this passage!

Logic: A new commandment: As I love you, you love others: IF you love me, Keep my commandments!

In Luke 7:36-47 Is the essence of the problem: Too little Love

Concl: In A Couple of weeks, Ministry Fair....Two Choices:

Go out the side door...To the Ministry Fair...And Serve Others

Go out the back door...And Go Home...And serve Yourself

Challenge You, Make a Choice Of Love, Deliberately Make that Journey of Faith...Never Regret it!

