

Home Group study: week beginning 29th June 2020

Jesus Christ: Dangerous Revolutionary

8: Humility

Can you recall an occasion when someone did something really kind for you?

At the risk of asking you the question one should never ask, how did it make you feel?

And how do you feel now about that person (or those people)?

Read:

Philippians 2: 1-11

In his sermon Dave talked about Jesus washing the disciples' feet (John 13: 1-17).

This was a specific example of Jesus showing a supreme act of service to the disciples.

You probably remember the story, but Dave reminded us that washing of feet was such a lowly service (and a pretty revolting one) it couldn't normally even be done by Jews, as it was such an unclean procedure.

Although Dave didn't specifically preach from this passage in Philippians, it was used as the basis of worship this week and was also recalled by Tim as we moved into Communion after the sermon. The passage falls into two parts, the first encouraging us to serve, the second talking about how Jesus served us. How does the example of Jesus washing the disciples' feet apply to both parts of this passage?

Discovery

In verse 1, what blessings does the believer receive in a relationship with Christ?

How should we act in response to those blessings?

In his sermon, Dave used a step ladder to show how we gain in merit as we go through our life in the world. But then he showed how Jesus turns the ladder upside down.

How is this demonstrated in verses 6-8?

At the end of the John 13 passage, where Jesus washes the disciples' feet, we read:

¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you...

¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

How does God the Father apply v17 to Jesus in the Philippians passage?

What does this say about the way we need to worship Jesus?

Understanding

What sort of things might we do out of 'selfish ambition' or 'vain conceit' (v3)?

How easy do we find it to 'consider others better' than ourselves?

What sort of things do we need to be aware of in our own hearts? And how do we begin to vanquish those things to enable us to 'consider others better than ourselves'?

What does it mean to 'look to the interests of others'?

What do verses 6-8 teach us about the nature of Jesus as a man? What do verses 9-11 teach us about the nature of the risen Lord Jesus? Does this passage help us to understand the wonderful truth about Jesus being 'wholly man' and 'wholly God'? What does it teach us about how we should be as Godly people?

Application

What could each of us do to serve people better?

How do we apply this (1) inside the church, and (2), outside the church?

Are we encouraged by Jesus' promise:

'Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them'
in John 13: 17?

Think about the level to which Jesus stooped to wash the disciples' feet: here was the Lord of all, someone the disciples regarded as the greatest Rabbi of them all, stooping to the level of a Gentile slave and performing a revolting task to what was, physically and culturally, the lowest point of the human body (which would have been covered in more than just mud and dust, remember). Having done that, Jesus told the disciples he had

'set you an example that you should do as I have done for you' (John 13: 15).

What sort of things might we have to be prepared to do to follow that example?

Then spend some time just contemplating verses 9-11 (some of the most exciting and uplifting verses in the entire Bible) before leading into a time of worship, based on those verses. *(Singing over Zoom can be tricky, especially if you or the group are not very musical! So don't worry about trying to sing: you can lift your praises to Jesus without singing.)*