

Reflection Questions: John 13:1-17 & 1 Peter 4:10-11

For the message, "Let Us Serve One Another" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 6, 2025

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: John 13 & 1 Peter 4

The Gospel of John, Chapter 13

1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, **3** 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, **4** rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. **5** 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.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." **8** Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me"....

12 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? **13** You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16** 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. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

The Letter of 1 Peter, Chapter 4

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in these texts?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- (1) What Jesus did was at once a radical act of love, hospitality, and service. Explain why this was so shocking and so powerful. What was Jesus trying to get across to his disciples?
- (2) Peter resisted being served by Jesus. We no doubt at times resist being helped and loved by others. Why do you think that is? What does that tell us about the human condition? And how might this resistance be a form of pride?
- (3) Building on what Jesus said, the pastor said in his sermon, "Whatever is within me that opposes the mindset of a servant, I must ruthlessly destroy." How does this challenge you?
- (4) How does the fact that Jesus loved us to the very end, by taking the form of a servant and becoming obedient, even to the point of death, inform your thoughts on just how deeply Jesus lowered himself to serve us at our greatest point of need, namely, the atonement for our sins? What does this stir within you?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- (1) Imagine someone visiting our church for the first time, do you think they would sense we are a people who joyfully serve one another? Why or why not?
- (2) In 1 Peter 4, the Apostle says we serve "by the strength that God supplies." How might we encourage one another when serving others feels more draining than rewarding?
- (3) How does humbling ourselves and taking the position of one who serves testify to the Good News of Jesus?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- (1) What do you think "washing the feet" of not only one another, but of our city look like?
- (2) How can we serve in ways that are visible but not self-promoting—pointing others to Jesus, not ourselves?
- (3) If Mercy Hill were to ask our neighbors in Bryan-College Station what our church is known for—would "serving" be on the list? Should it be? What would we hope they would say about us?

BONUS QUESTION

If God wants to make you more like Jesus, can he do that without making you into a servant? Explain.

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....