

Step Out
Called to Tell – Sent to Share
John 13:1-17



The greatest example we have of servant leadership is when Jesus washed the disciples' feet on the night of the first Lord's Supper. *Read the scripture and talk about how the disciples must have felt to have their Master get down on their level to wash and dry their feet.* How do you think you would have felt? Would you have felt like Peter, not wanting Jesus to wash your feet? Notice particularly the 17th verse: "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Think of at least one recent thing that you have done to share God's compassion – stories of hope and encouragement, acts of kindness, literally getting your feet dirty by cleaning a sick person's house, or taking someone to get a chemo treatment. *Share these in the group.* And we don't stop there. We look for many ways we can share God's love and concern.

Give the following scriptures to individuals to read and share with the group or form groups of 2 or 3 persons in a small group to discuss ways the scripture says we need to be "telling and sharing." You may want to read some adjoining verses to understand the context.

- ***I Samuel 3:09** – "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." We have to be willing to listen to God before we can tell or share. How is listening best done? (Today's English Version)
- ***Psalms 86:04** – "Make your servant glad, O Lord, because my prayers go up to you." How is prayer an important element in our lives if we are going to be glad and able to share? (Today's English Version)
- ***Psalms 116:16a** – "I am your servant, Lord." How can we best have commitment and willingness to be able to share? (Today's English Version)
- ***Isaiah 41:09b** – "You are my servant. I did not reject you, but chose you." To have the knowledge that we have been chosen by God to be a servant is an amazing and humbling idea. (Today's English Version)
- ***Matthew 10:24-25a** – "No pupil is greater than his teacher; no slave is greater than his master." So a pupil should be satisfied to become like his teacher, and a slave like his master." What was Jesus' purpose in washing and drying the feet of the disciples? How were they better prepared to share the Gospel with others just as we show our willingness to serve others? (Today's English Version)
- ***Matthew 6:24** – "No one can be a slave of two masters; he will hate one and love the other; he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." This verse is often used to help persons understand and respond to God's love and salvation. (Today's English Version)
- ***Matthew 20: 26a-28** – "If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be your slave—like the Son of Man who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people." How can we best follow Jesus' example? (Today's English Version)

***Romans 12:11** – “Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.” How can we serve God unless our motives meet God’s standards?
(Today’s English Version)

These scriptures have a story to tell, and they (we) can’t stop sharing it. Think of something you learned recently and you just couldn’t wait to share that with the appropriate people. *Were they surprised, pleased, or did they question your motives?*

How do you feel about sharing your faith? Maybe you could talk with a person you are sitting by in the doctor’s office or on a bus or plane. *Has it improved your prayer life so you will have the grace and peace you need to share Christ’s message and influence on your life?* Several years ago, in a course on evangelism, we were told to share that which we know from experience rather than trying to tell someone else how the Christian faith will affect their lives.

What are those groups within your community that need you to share your story – a children’s home, a shelter for men, women or families, or other service agencies? Children need tutors in school to help them better learn. Girls’ Clubs need mentors to help guide them on better paths.

It is only as we grow in our experience with the Christian faith that we are able to be better leaders for others.

Have you been considering recently some ways that you can live out your Christian faith more faithfully? Maybe this theme, “Called to Tell – Sent to Share,” is the spark you need to get you going in a more extensive way of sharing your sense of compassion and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Some questions we need to ask ourselves are found in Romans 10: 14-15.

- “But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?
- And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?
- And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
- And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.’” (NRSV)

What is the major thing you need to do to be willing and able to tell the Good News and share God’s love and compassion with others? As Jesus served, so let us serve.

Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus’ example of serving by washing the disciples’ feet. Let us be diligent in finding ways that we can share your story with those who have not heard and have not had a good example to follow. In the name of the greatest servant who ever lived, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Today’s English Version +New Revised Standard Version*