

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:12-17 (NLT)

My Example

I have given you an example to follow. What will you do? How will you respond? What course of action will you take? I want to know and do your will. **Is my will a mystery to you? Have I hidden my desire for you? Must you be very wise to understand what my will is for you?** No, your will is not a mystery. No, your desire for me is clear. I don't need to be wise to know your will. However, my doing what you desire and living out your will does require wisdom. **Is that all that doing my will requires of you?** No, doing your will require many things from me. **Like what?** My doing your will requires faith. I must believe that you love and care for me and that you have a purpose and plan for my life. My doing your will requires humility. I must not be proud and think that I have a better, more perfect, way of thinking, and speaking, and acting. My doing your will requires obedience. It would do me no good to simply know your will but to fail to do your will. That would be foolish. **Yes, it would be foolish.** I have more to say about doing your will. **I'm listening.** Doing your will require strength and endurance. It may not always be easy to do your will. It will require strength and endurance for me to keep on doing your will. **What will be the source of your strength and endurance to do my will?** That is the best part, you will help me to do your will. You will give me all that I need to do your will. You will keep on helping me to do your will as I keep on relying on you. **Yes, I will.**

We have gone a little bit ahead of ourselves in our conversation. What do you mean? **You haven't told me what you understand my will is for your life.** It is so obvious; it didn't get stated. **State it now, for me.** It is your desire that I follow your example. You have given me an example to follow. You want me to become like you in all I think and say and do. You want me to live the kind of life you lived. You want me to love like you loved. You want me to give like you gave. You want me to serve like you served. **Is that it?** I am sure that there is much more. You want me to live in an intimate relationship with you. You want me to live a life of prayer. You want me to hear your voice. You want me to receive your guidance and follow your instruction. Day by day, you want to guide the course of my life. **Yes, I do.**

What will happen to you as you follow my example? God, my Heavenly Father, will bless my life. His favor will be with me. His hand will be on me. I will live the life that I have been called to live. **Yes, that is true. Will you follow my example?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, thank you for giving me numerous examples to follow. I will humbly serve others. I will sacrificially give away my time and talent and resources. I will love like you loved. I will give like you gave. I will serve like you served. I will gladly follow and obey you. Amen

The Virtuous Life

Set You An Example

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

NIV

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Given You An Example

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

NLT

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Set You An Example

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

NRSV

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Given You This As An Example

So when He had finished washing their feet and had put on His garments and had sat down again, He said to them, Do you understand what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher (Master) and the Lord, and you are right in doing so, for that is what I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher (Master), have washed your feet, you ought [it is your duty, you are under obligation, you owe it] to wash one another's feet. For I have given you this as an example, so that you should do [in your turn] what I have done to you. I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, A servant is not greater than his master, and no one who is sent is superior to the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed *and* happy *and* to be envied are you if you practice them [if you act accordingly and really do them].

AMP

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Gave You An Example

So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

NASB

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Given You An Example

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.

ESV

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Given You An Example

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, 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 should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

NKJV

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Laid Down A Pattern

After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table. Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

MSG

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Given You An Example

After washing their feet he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Master' and 'Lord,' and you do well to say it, for it is true. And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow: do as I have done to you. How true it is that a servant is not greater than his master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends him. You know these things—now do them! That is the path of blessing.

TLB

John 13:12-17

The Virtuous Life

Did This As An Example

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked, "Do you understand what I have just done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that is what I am. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each other's feet. I did this as an example so that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

NCV

John 13:12-17

Given You An Example

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Virtuous Life – John 13:12-17

In Context: *Read John 13*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:12-17 (NLT)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

After washing their feet, | he put on his robe again | and sat down and asked, | "Do you understand what | I was doing? | You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' | and you are right, | because that's what I am. | And since I, | your Lord and Teacher, | have washed your feet, | you ought to wash | each other's feet. | I have given you an example to follow. | Do as I have done to you. | I tell you the truth, | slaves are not greater than | their master. | Nor is the messenger | more important than | the one who sends | the message. | Now that you know these things, | God will bless you | for doing them. John 13:12-17 (NLT)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, thank you for giving me numerous examples to follow. I will humbly serve others. I will sacrificially give away my time and talent and resources. I will love like you loved. I will give like you gave. I will serve like you served. I will gladly follow and obey you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How is it the priority of your life to follow Christ's example in your thinking, speaking, and acting?

Why can you be certain that it is God's will that you follow the examples Christ has given to you?

When have you had a difficult time following the examples Christ has given to you?

What will it cost you if you want to follow the examples that Christ has given to you?

When have you sacrificially given of your time, talent, and resources to others?

What hope and peace and joy have you found in following the examples Christ has given to you?

How has God blessed your life as you have known and done His will by following Christ's example?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the examples Christ has given to you so God will be able to bless your life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that your life will be blessed as you follow the examples Christ has given to you.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are following the examples Christ has given to you.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you follow Christ's example of serving others.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will follow your example of serving others.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I follow your example of serving others today?
