

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

TPMC Values - Humility: To be Loving

John 13:1-19

Ms Sarah Lim

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- All of us experience entitlement sometimes. This is the belief or thought that we “deserve better” or that our comfort, rights and needs should have top priority. However, entitlement blinds us to the people around us and deafens us to God’s call.
- The opposite of entitlement is humility. Biblical humility is not merely putting aside our preferences in some situations. It means following Jesus all the way down to serve the undeserving.
- By washing His disciples’ feet (vv 4-5), Jesus did not just lower Himself but went beyond accepted norms and the social order. The disciples understood this, because the task of washing feet was an extremely lowly duty in their society.
 - ✓ In doing this, the King of heaven lowered Himself to the lowest place, in stark contrast with the disciples, who just before this were arguing about which of them should have the highest place (Luke 22:24).
 - ✓ Furthermore, this act was not just one of cleansing the body with water but pointed to Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice on the cross to spiritually cleanse the disciples from their sin with His blood (John 13:8).
 - ✓ Jesus served the disciples even though they were undeserving. Likewise, Jesus served us at the cost of His life, even though we are all undeserving of God’s love, grace and mercy.
- Jesus did not just demonstrate humility to us through service but taught us as His disciples the duty to serve others (John 13:12-15). Love flows vertically from God to His disciples, then horizontally from His disciples to one another: a triangular shape.

Humility does not mean saying “yes” to just any request from anyone. Instead, humility involves saying “yes” to God with regards to *what He wants you to do* in each situation. That is, it is a wilful choice to do as God says out of our love for Him & others. And the Holy Spirit is only a prayer away to help us as we choose God’s ways & surrender ours.

- Application: “Towel moments” where we can replace the posture of entitlement with the posture of Christ.
 - 1) Hold your tongue (instead of lashing out).
 - 2) Serve at home (instead of being served, and without expecting thanks).
 - 3) Take the low task (instead of dodging it).
 - 4) Serve without return or investment (instead of treating service as a transaction).
 - 5) Bear with one another in love.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. Have you recently felt reluctant to do something, even though you knew it would help someone? What was it?

REFLECT

2. The Bible has many passages about the dangers of pride and entitlement: one common thread is that pride takes people's attention away from God and places it on themselves. What can we learn from these passages?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Proverbs 3:34 & 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Judges 6:11-16, 7:1-8; 1 John 3:16]

RESPOND

3. Over the next two weeks, pick one of the "Towel moments" in the sermon synopsis to focus on. Seek out opportunities to practice humility and set aside entitlement in that way. Share with the group how other people were helped and how you grew through this.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God for saving all of us from our sins, even though we are all undeserving.
- Thank God for patiently guiding us into humility even when we resist it.
- Ask God to show us where we are proud and entitled and to give us opportunities, grace and strength to change and practice humility.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"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." [John 13:14-15]