



SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Service | Keith Simon | October 19, 2025

Experiments Review

- How did it go? What was challenging?
- What did you learn? About yourself and about God?
- What would you like to incorporate into your life going forward?

Sermon Discussion

1. Read: Matthew 26:22 & 1 Corinthians 13:1-4

"They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, 'Surely you don't mean me, Lord?'"
- Matthew 26:22

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." -1 Cor. 13:1-4

The Appearance of Godliness: Even the disciples didn't know who would betray Jesus. We can do all of these spiritual things, but without love, Paul says we are nothing. We can give the *appearance of godliness*, but without loving God and others, we have missed something critical.

Why is the appearance of godliness important for us to be aware of?

2. Read Mark 10:35-45



35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." **36** "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. **37** They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." **38** "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" **39** "We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, **40** but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

41 When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. **42** Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **43** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Measuring Spiritual Maturity: We are often trying to measure aspects of our life to ensure we are meeting whatever standard we have established for ourselves, but it's impossible to measure our spiritual maturity.

- How were James & John trying to measure theirs? Where did they miss the mark?
- Why is this Jesus' response to James & John?

(Optional)

"Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts".

- William Bruce Cameron

- What things do you find yourself counting that don't actually count?
- What are the things that deeply count that you find yourself trying to measure?

3. Read John 13:13-17

13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for



you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus — our Example: Jesus does the lowliest acts of service. Jesus is the son of God and Bread of Life. He's the Prince of Peace, the Living Water, and the great High Priest. Light of the World, Lamb of God, righteous Judge. King of Glory, the Chosen One. King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Alpha and the Omega. The Beginning and the End, the first and the last. And he knelt and washed the feet of his followers. He even washed the feet of Judas who would betray him later that evening.

- What is most striking to you in this passage and why?
- What does this communicate about what Jesus prioritizes above all else?
- Jesus is our example - no act of service is too lowly for him. In what ways might God be calling you to serve others? Are there specific people that come to mind that he might be asking you to serve?

Sharing and Prayer

- In what ways have you been a "foot washer"? In what ways have you found this to bless you, bless others, and know Jesus more fully?
- What are the "stories we tell ourselves" about why we can't serve others? Are there practical ways to overcome those barriers?
- How is your group doing at encouraging each other in knowing and experiencing God more?
- **Prayer:** Spend time in prayer, praying specifically for a posture of humility in the quest to love God and love others through service. Pray that the barriers will become less and the desire to love would become greater.

What to practice for next time...

- Week of 10/26- Holy Aspiration
- Week of 11/2- Rest (*Pick up Experiments Booklet Volume 3*)

To access a digital copy of the experiments, use this QR code.

