

Crossroads Daily Guide
Week of September 25
What the World Needs Now
Week 3: Service



This week we continue our series “What the World Needs now” by looking at how Jesus taught and modeled the importance of becoming people who willingly and enthusiastically serve. In fact, our goal as followers of Jesus is to become people who serve as a way of life, every day, without even having to think about it. It just becomes part of who we are.

In the story of Jesus washing the disciple’s feet, when he picked up the towel and stooped to wash their feet, he put his love into action. He did it because he knew in his heart that every act of service has the potential to miraculously transform both the server and the one being served. Jesus set the example and then taught his disciples to go and do the same.

There are two parts to this story. The first is Jesus’ selfless act of service by washing his disciples’ feet but the second is equally important. When Jesus came to Peter to wash his feet, Peter protested declaring that he would never allow Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus made it clear that refusing his act of service was not an option. When it was clear to him that Jesus was saying we must learn to humbly accept acts of service ourselves, Peter cried out, “Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head.” Peter finally understood Jesus’ message and wanted to experience everything possible from the moment. Jesus assured him that washing his feet was enough to make his point.

When we allow ourselves to be served we realize our own limitations and begin to have empathy for others. Every tiny act of service has the potential to ripple out to the world in ways we cannot imagine. As a community we offer service opportunities because every time one of us engages in an act of service it has the potential to change us and to change the world around us.

Sign up to receive daily inspirational text messages every morning at 7AM by texting the word Crossroads to the number 41411.

Sunday Sept. 25, 2016

John 13: 3-4 (CEB) *Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God so he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing.*

Reflection: Opportunities to serve are everywhere. Allow God to lead you to one person today who needs your help. However small the action, be grateful for the opportunity.

Monday Sept. 26, 2016

2 John 3:18 (CEB) *Let us love not in word or talk but in deed and truth.*

Reflection: Daily practice of service is a goal. As you go through the day notice simple acts of service around you. Remember that growing in awareness of needs is a goal.

Tuesday Sept. 27, 2016

Philippians 2:3-4 *Don’t do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus.*

Reflection: It takes time to develop a new practice. Be patient with yourself as you seek new ways to serve others. Compassion for self is important to the process.

Wednesday Sept. 28, 2016

1 Peter 4:10 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied gifts.*

Reflection: Jesus never demanded that we serve others. He gently showed that it is the best way for us to be together. Strive to live gently with others today.

Thursday Sept. 29, 2016

Galatians 5:13 *You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love.*

Reflection: An act of service is an act of love. How can you cultivate more loving attitudes toward yourself and those who are different from you, expanding your capacity to love?

Friday Sept. 30, 2016

Micah 6:8 *He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.*

Reflection: Look back on your work week. Was there a time when you needed help? Did you receive it? Has your perspective changed? How did you express your gratitude?

Saturday Oct. 1, 2016

Matthew 25:35 *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you come to me.*

Reflection: Jesus said when we do acts of service to others we are serving him. By imagining yourself serving Jesus in your acts of service changes your whole perspective.