LAST WORDS

The Way Up is Down

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John 13:1-17 NLT

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.
2It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

6When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

8"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

9Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

10Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." 11For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

12After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? 13You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

1. Describe a recent time when you did something to serve someone else, and their indifference and lack of appreciation bothered you. What does it indicate to you about your true heart to serve?
2. Discuss the link between servanthood and generosity. How is serving someone else an expression of generosity? When do you find it most difficult to be generous towards a member of your family? Your social network (school, work, neighbours)?
3. What is one small, habitual thing you could do in secret to serve someone in your family? Social network? How do you think this small act could be used by Jesus to make your heart more like his?