

LESSON NO. 19

# DISCIPLESHIP WITH PASSION

DISCIPLESHIP  
LESSONS FOR  
YOUNG ADULTS

 vangelism<sup>us</sup>  
mesoamerica

SERVICE  
SERVICE



## LESSON NO. 19

# SERVICE

MILTON GAY



**Biblical Basis:** John 13:1-30  
**Text to memorize:** John 13:15

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## PURPOSE

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Provide believers with a style of service based on the model of Jesus, so that they serve people in a holistic and intentional way.

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## REAL LIFE STORY

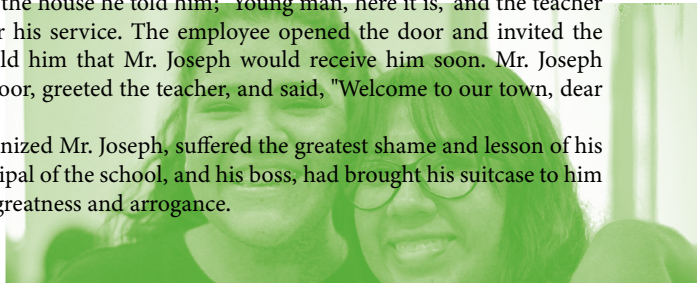
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A few years ago, Mr. Joseph, the principal of a small school in a small town, hired a teacher to teach the children at the school.

The day of arrival of the teacher in town arrived, Don José was waiting for him at the bus terminal to welcome him and take him to his house. The teacher got off the bus and looked at Mr. Joseph without knowing who he was, asked him if he knew Mr. Joseph, asked him to take his suitcase and guide him to his house. Mr. Joseph, without saying who he was, replied to the teacher that he would gladly take him, taking his suitcase, he guided him and listened to him talk about the feats in his life all the way.

Upon reaching the front of the house he told him, "Young man, here it is," and the teacher offered him some coins for his service. The employee opened the door and invited the teacher to come in. She told him that Mr. Joseph would receive him soon. Mr. Joseph entered through the back door, greeted the teacher, and said, "Welcome to our town, dear teacher."

The teacher, when he recognized Mr. Joseph, suffered the greatest shame and lesson of his life, because the same principal of the school, and his boss, had brought his suitcase to him with teacher's pretenses of greatness and arrogance.



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# WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

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Jesus was sitting at the table, got up and began to wash the feet of His disciples. The attitude of Jesus shows us, once again, the quality of leader that He was, without a doubt the best of all time. He always used Himself as an example, everything He taught or preached He did, including even giving His own life in favor of others.

Jesus, after dinner, bows before His disciples to give them the greatest lesson in humility and service, in a task that everyone could and should do, however, no one was willing to serve others and lower themselves to a task that it was reserved for slaves. It was a Jewish custom reserved for insignificant slaves, the use of sandals and dust made it necessary that, when visitors arrived, the slaves were ready to wash the feet of the guests.

We are all sure that the disciples would have been happy to wash the feet of Jesus, but no one wanted to wash those of their peers or companions because they considered themselves equal, doing so was a sign of inferiority and humiliation.

Have you ever wondered how important foot washing was and why did Jesus do it? Jesus through this action taught them 3 important things:

- 1) The washing of the feet serves as a symbol of spiritual cleanliness. (John 13:6-9)
- 2) A leadership model of humility. (John 13:12-17)
- 3) Selfless service.

Those who make the decision to follow Jesus need to also be willing to serve Him with humility and simplicity.

What was the attitude of the disciples? It was an unspiritual attitude.

In Luke 22:24 it says that they argued who was the greatest among them, an attitude that excluded the willingness to humiliate themselves to wash their feet. When they watched Jesus do it, they were surprised, the greatest of all did it to teach them a lesson for life.

Peter as always told him; "NO! You will never wash my feet", to which Jesus replied, "If I don't do it, you won't have a part with me," then Pedro understood and told Him to clean him up. Here comes the spiritual lesson; His body was already clean, they had already known and accepted Him, however, not all of them, referring to Judas who would later betray Him

***"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."***

***- John 13:15***



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# WHAT IS TO SERVE?

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To serve or render a service is to help someone spontaneously, as a collaborative attitude towards others. A person who has the spirit of service serves in his work, in his family and on the street, with things that are seemingly insignificant, but make them happy.

Many people associate service with helpless and poor people, of a low social class, but this is not the case, because service is a gift from God, it is a gift that God has given to all of us who are His children.

In Matthew 20:26-27 Jesus teaches something else to the mother of the disciples, she wanted them to honor her two sons by giving them preferential treatment to His right and left. He tells her that among them it will not be like that, but that whoever wants to become great has to be the servant of others. Wow! What an incredible life lesson, Jesus not only taught, but modeled it on His relationship with His disciples.



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## BIBLICAL SUPPORT

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“It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so, He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not everyone was clean. 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. Very truly I tell you, 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.” (John 13:1-17).

**What does serve from Jesus' perspective mean to you?**

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**Write down 5 things you are willing to do to model the life of a servant, as Jesus taught:**

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## REFLECTION

Many people understand and misassociate humility, it is not something that has to do with money or self-esteem, there are many proud poor and humble rich.

Biblically humility is found in the person of Jesus. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4).

Each one must look out not only for their interests but also for the interests of others.

**According to this passage, what is humility to you?**

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**How should we serve?**

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**According to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, what is the key ingredient for our service to be pleasing in His eyes?**

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We can literally wash the disciples' feet, but if we do it without love, it is useless.

**What do you think was the impact of service that Jesus left them and for what?**

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**According to Psalm 138:6-8, what is the blessing and promise for the humble?**

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# PRACTICE

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They might have been happy to wash the feet of Jesus, but it would never have occurred to them to wash the feet of their brothers.

**What did you learn from the lesson and how will you intentionally put it into practice?**

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**According to Philippians chapter 2:5-8, what should our attitude be as His disciples?**

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**How could you serve your brothers in your church and your community?**

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Jesus was a humble and simple servant who always sought to serve and love others. Nowadays there are still many feet to wash, are we ready?

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15).