

Jesus on Leadership

Take Risks

John 13:1-5

Being a servant leader is risky business. And nobody understood that better than Jesus, the greatest servant leader who has or ever will live.

John 1:1-5 — 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Philippians 2:6-8 — 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Today, I want to encourage you to take a risk. In fact, I want to encourage you to get to the place in your life where you would risk anything earthly for everything eternal. Here's the risk I want to encourage you to invest in today...

Take up the towel of **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**.

John 13:1-5 — 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Do we object because we don't want to see God washing feet? Or do we object because we don't want to do the same? We object to seeing Jesus take up the towel of servant leadership because we don't want to do the same.

Here's the question I want to ask you this morning. It's a question that I've been asking myself... **how can I get to the place where I am willing to take up the towel of servant leadership? How do I get to the place in my life where I'm willing to give up my spot at the head table and serve others? Another way of asking this is...how can I live an open handed life because it's vividly clear that's exactly the kind of life Jesus lived.**

1. God is in **CHARGE**.

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands,

The very first conclusion you will need to come to if you are ever going to be able to manage the risk of servant leadership is the fact that there is a God and you are not Him. He's in charge.

2. God has given me a **MISSION**.

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God...

We were created to reflect God in this world, to relate to God and to represent Him in His creation.

3. God is going to **EVALUATE MY LIFE**.

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, Even at the end of His earthly life, Jesus acknowledged that He was going back to His heavenly Father...Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46).

You trust that at the end of this life you will return to the God who created you and redeemed you and that you will receive the inheritance of eternal life he has promised you. **This trust allows you to risk anything earthly for everything eternal.**

Let's talk about taking risks...

1. What did Jesus know when he got to this point in his life (v.1, 3)?
2. Why is it so difficult for us to take the risk of stepping down from our place at the head of the table to serve others?
3. What's so risky about servant leadership?
4. Why do we find it so hard to watch Jesus wash the feet of His disciples (v.4-5)?
5. What would it look like for you to live an open handed life?