

Growing In Humility and Love

John 13:1-17

Pastor Maryanne
17 Dec 2023





Overview for today

- 1) Update about Youth Church
- 2) Short Message on John 13:1-17

Update From Youth Church



For youths age 12 - 20 years old

Renovated L4 Spaces in 2022



L4 Upper Room



Youth and leaders wrote prophetic prayers on the floor to pray for the many generations to come who will use this space :)

L4 Upper Room



Outreach to schools nearby



P from the 2 schools

Outreach to schools nearby



7,000 miles with
Jesus prayer walk
/ prayer run over
3 months

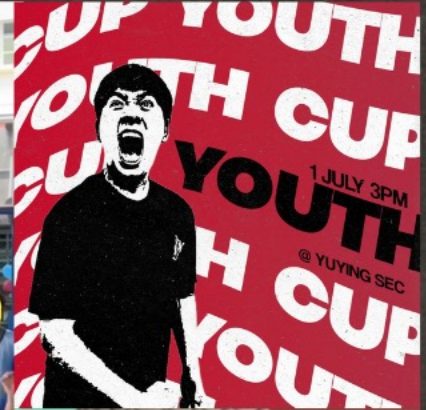


Outreach to schools nearby



Doing CP and creating care packs for teachers for teachers' day and exam care packs for the boys & girls before their final year exam

Outreach to schools nearby



Celebrating Youth Day by
playing sports at the school
with students from the school



Youth Church 2023 Theme



- Theme: Empowered
- One of the highlights was when we trained up our youths in evangelism and sent them out to do street evangelism in 2s and 3s

Sharing Jesus On The Streets



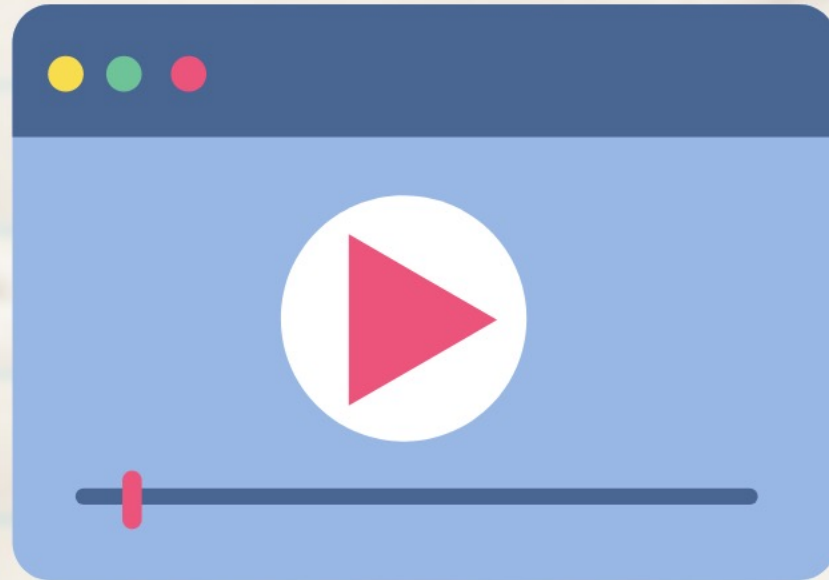
Hearing God's Voice



Asking God to show us if the person standing in front of us:

- Boy or Girl
- Age
- What is a word on God's heart to encourage this person

Video



Video

- Kids observe and pick up many habits (good / bad) from adults



Video



- Kids observe and pick up many habits (good / bad) from adults
- In our spiritual walk, we look to examples set before us.
- Paul exhorts us to imitate him as he imitates Christ (1 Cor 11:1)

Growing In Humility and Love

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Growing In Humility and Love

John 13:1-17

What did Jesus demonstrate
through the washing of feet?



Growing In Humility and Love

Jesus demonstrated for us

1) Humility



Humility

Secular definition:

- The quality of being humble
- Having a modest opinion of one's importance, rank, etc

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Biblical perspective:

- The practice of meekness as a result of obedience to God, respect of self and others
- Putting the needs of others before their own
- Willing to sacrifice
- Jesus demonstrated it through washing of disciples feet

John 13:1-17

1 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.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 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.

John 13:1-17

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

10 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.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

John 13:1-17

12 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. 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.

Context of John

- Pattern seen in gospel of John:
 - Jesus offers a sign
 - Then provides an explanation to the deeper meaning behind it
 - Feeding of 5,000 -> Jesus is the Bread of Life
 - Healing of blind man -> Jesus is the Light of the World

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- Chapter 13: Jesus is approaching “The Hour” of crucifixion
- Point of Crucifixion = Point of Glorification
- Chapters 13-17 = Explanation of the final sign
- Chapters 18-21 = The final sign --> Dying on the cross

Context of John

- Cross reference to Gospel of Luke, this scene of the last passover meal, the disciples were quarrelling about which of them would be the greatest (Luke 22:24-27)
- Gospel of John does not record this quarrel
- But Gospel of John records an act of Jesus that will contrast against the lack of humility of the disciples = He washes their feet

Context of Foot Washing

1st Century Jewish Culture

- Feet washing = Daily cleaning ritual
- Symbolic of hospitality to guests
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- Jesus washing their feet = can be paralleled to an example of Prince William of England coming to sweep our kitchen floor



Jesus demonstrated for us (1) Humility

How Is Jesus Able To Do This Lowly Task?

How Is Jesus Able To Do This Lowly Task?

Answer: It is because Jesus was completely assured of His relationship with God & identity in God

John 13:3-5

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.

An Example of Humility: Mother Teresa



- Founded the Missionaries of Charity in India in 1950
- Ministered to poor, sick, orphaned, dying
- Ran hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis
- Ran soup kitchens
- Ran family & children counseling programs
- Ran orphanages and schools

An Example of Humility: Mother Teresa



“Humility is the mother of all virtues; purity, charity and obedience. It is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted and ardent. If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, **because you know what you are.** If you are blamed you will not be discouraged. If they call you a saint you will not put yourself on a pedestal.”

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

Humility

- Worldly perspective of humility = Self-neglect. Thinking lowly about own importance.
- Mother Teresa echoed the same words in John 13
- **Humility is really about being secured in your identity in God**
- Serving others is because we obey God
- And we're living for God's praise and delight alone

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Growing humility in us

= God invites us to understand more about who He is, and about who we are in Him

Growing In Humility and Love

Jesus demonstrated for us

1) Humility



Growing In Humility and Love

Jesus demonstrated for us

***2) Unconditional
Love***



Unconditional Love

- Act of feet washing was Jesus way of demonstrating unconditional love

John 13:1

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.**

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John 13:1

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.**

- Pattern of Gospel of John = Revealing a sign + Explanation of the sign
- Washing of feet = an explanation
 - Of the sign of the Jesus dying on the cross for us

Unconditional Love

John 13:7-8

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

- Jesus parallels the washing of feet with washing of sins
- Unless a person is cleansed by Jesus' work on the cross, they can have no part with Jesus = no fellowship with God / no union with God

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Because of Jesus GREAT LOVE for us,

He sees it is worth it to do the lowly task of feet washing.

He sees it is worth it to pay the costly price of bearing God's wrath on our behalf.

Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

What Is Jesus Trying To Teach The Disciples?

What Is Jesus Trying To Teach The Disciples?

Answer: Disciples need to imitate his deeds.

Demonstrate love to one another as He has done so.

John 13: 14-15

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.

- Jesus modelled for us this self-giving love
- The church community should display this self-giving love

Modelling That Self-Giving Love Of Jesus

- By washing feet of others, Jesus showed that **no act of service should be beneath the disciples**
- It is a call to love those who are unlovable, unpopular, who betray us, who hurt us
- Have a readiness to perform the lowliest service for one another
- No task is too small / unimportant for you to do for someone else



Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



Nicholas



Maria



Car crash in UK in 2017 after drink driving

Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



- Maria's parents forgave him



Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



- Maria's parents forgave him
- Called him daily
- Opened their home to him when he needed a place to stay
- Helped him move into new place
- Fought to drop charges against him
- Visited him every week when he was in jail for 2 years
- Kept in touch even when he returned to Singapore

Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



Maria's Father's response:
"Should I kill him? Should I say
something bad?"

God told him the response should be
"I forgive you, son. I forgive you"

Jesus demonstrated for us (2) Unconditional love

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



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**"God forgave me and loved me.
So I forgive Nick."**

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



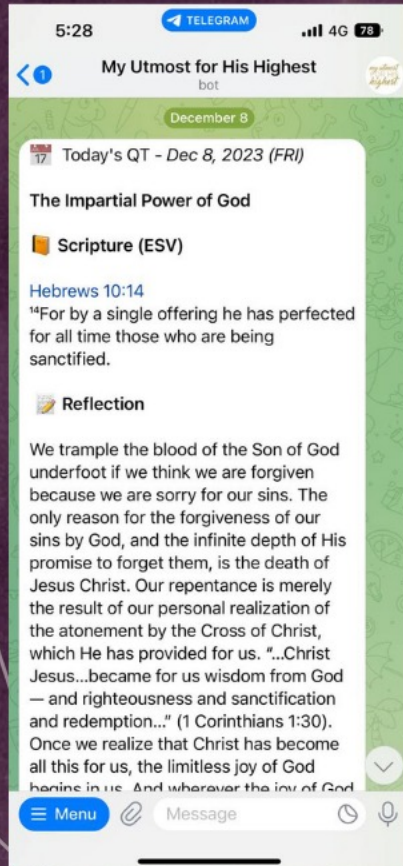
- Recently I had to face the ugliness of my own heart
 - Struggled to release forgiveness
 - Waiting to see if other party shows their remorse



This was actually

- a transactional love
- a conditional forgiveness

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



- Devotional entry from “My Utmost For His Highest” talked about how **God’s forgiveness to us is NOT given based on how sorry we are for our sins / the degree of remorse**



This is another mindset of trying to “earn” forgiveness



- We are forgiven only by God’s grace on the account of Jesus dying on the cross for us

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



- How truly WRETCHED I am in my sin!!!
- How impossible it is to redeem myself or earn God's forgiveness!!!
- Not even my own works of being remorseful can save me

Self-Giving Love In The Form Of Forgiveness



- How truly WRETCHED I am in my sin!!!
 - How impossible it is to redeem myself or earn God's forgiveness!!!
 - Not even my own works of being remorseful can save me
-
- That moment of realisation of how I am saved only by Jesus on the cross = felt like an experience of Jesus washing my feet



Unconditional Love

- Maria's parents must have experienced this love from God, that allowed them to show love by forgiving Nicholas
- I could only release forgiveness when I realised how Jesus had forgiven me without me needing to be remorseful

Growing unconditional love in us

= God invites us to come and experience His love

- To have a "feet washing experience" with Jesus

Growing In Humility and Love

Jesus demonstrated for us

1) Humility

***2) Unconditional
Love***



Response

1) You want to have a “feet-washing experience” with Jesus



Response

- 1) You want to have a “feet-washing experience” with Jesus
- 2) You want to receive Jesus into your life as your God and Saviour

