

## SERVING

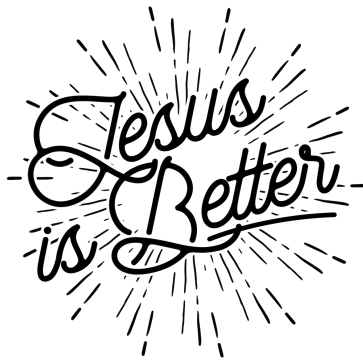
*A prayer for serving others in response to John 13:1-17.*

Lord, one of the shocking things that you did with your disciples was wash their feet. What a ridiculous and beautiful thing that you could see the cross looming, but you served the disciples in this humbling, even humiliating, way. Thank you, Jesus, for serving your disciples – and me – like this.

After you washed their feet, you instructed the disciples to wash one another's feet – that you are the example that we should follow. I confess that my default state is selfishness and laziness. I would rather have someone else serve me than serve them. I am ashamed at my attitude, especially when I contrast it to yours. You were about to serve in the most unimaginable way, yet you found even more ways to serve rather than wallow in the unfairness of your role or circumstance.

Lord, I know there are needs all around me - physical needs, emotional needs, spiritual needs. It can be crushing to be reminded of this, and I confess I often avoid thinking about it. Considering the needs of others makes me feel guilty, overwhelmed, and unqualified.

Father, give me the courage to look at the needs of other people. Give me the wisdom to know when I should act. Give me the willingness to set aside what I have going on today or tomorrow. Give me the energy to do the thing that serves and shows love to other people.



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Please let your example teach and inspire my heart! I want to go through my days seeing my circumstances through the lens of you and your sacrificial service. Remind me of the love you have shown me. Grow in me the likeness of you, so I will be willing to show love to others.

I am humbled that you washed even Judas's feet. Lord, help me to serve people regardless of whether or not I think they deserve it. Give me the ability to love and serve those around me as a means of honoring you, rather than as a means of solving a problem, or rewarding a person, or making myself feel better.

Help me to look for opportunities to serve. Give me hands that willingly wash, feet that willingly go, and a heart that loves as you have loved me.