

Wednesday

Read John 13:1-17. Visualize the image of our God and Savior bending down to scrub the filth off your feet. Is there something in your life like the foot-washing you've been waiting for someone else to do? Why? What is keeping you from having a servant's mind and a servant's heart?

Ask God today to help you look for ways to serve others. Ask Him to give you the strength to be a willing slave.

Thursday

Read Mark 9:2-8. Are there times you decided to speak up and ruin a powerful moment, either in someone's life or during a "God moment?" Why? How can you work to watch and listen more than you speak in these moments?

Thank God that He is always active. Ask Him to give you the self-restraint to be silent and listen when He is at work, speaking to us or showing us something amazing.

Friday

Read Acts 2:42-47. What examples do you see of this version of the church today? How can you bring First Covenant Church closer to this picture of Christianity seen in Acts 2? What acts of self-centeredness are keeping you from unity with your fellow Christians? What can you do about it?

Ask God to make us one, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one. Thank Him that He is mighty and powerful, and that equips us to love one another. Ask Him to give us the strength to fight back our self-centered ways and for Him to give you a vision of how to promote unity within the church.

Saturday

Ask God to prepare your heart for tomorrow so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters. Pray that both of our Sunday services will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.



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ENCOUNTER

FACE TO FACE WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Message by Brandon Smart on Sunday, March 18, 2018

Jesus Encounters Our Self-Centeredness

Scripture Reading: John 13:31-38

3 Ways We Make Christianity About _____:

1. We make _____ claims about how _____ we are.

Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You."

Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for Me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

John 13:36-38

2. We _____ or _____ about how much we serve.

The story of Ananias and Sapphira: Acts 4:32-5:11

**3. We _____ when we should
_____ and _____.**

Read the Transfiguration Account in Mark 9:2-8

Read about the Last Supper in John 13:1-17

“Now that I, our 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. I tell you the truth, 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 13:14-17

THE CORRECTIVE:

Have the mindset of a willing _____.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Because Jesus Wanted Us to Live _____.

Self-Centeredness _____ that.

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on Sunday’s topic.

This week’s memory verse:

“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.

Mark 9:35b

Monday

Please read John 8:31-38. Do you ever find yourself making a God-centered situation about yourself? Do you also suffer from a deficit of importance like Brandon did? Do you ever make claims making you sound more Christian than you are? Why? What was most encouraging for you from Sunday’s message? Why? What was most challenging to you? Why?

Thank God today that He loves you so much. Ask Him to give you the strength to be humble about your walk with Him, and ask Him to help you to follow more closely through your interactions with others this week.

Tuesday

Read Acts 4:32-5:11. Have you ever found yourself exaggerating how much you serve or give? If so, why? Ask yourself whether or not you believe that your value is based on how much you do. If so, why do you believe this?

Remember, God doesn’t love you because of what you do for Him. He loves you because you are His creation! His child!

Ask God to help you understand your past and how it affects your today. Ask Him to show you if you are depending on service for meaning. Thank Him that He loves you no matter what, and that our value isn’t based on our success.