



**Ice breaker:** As you begin a new year, which posture do you resonate with more right now: *hopeful for change* or *weary from trying*? What has shaped that posture for you?

### **Read and Reflect on John 13:1-17:**

*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.<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup>Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup>so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup>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.<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”<sup>8</sup> “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”<sup>9</sup> “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”<sup>10</sup> 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.”<sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

### **Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:**

1. Loved to the End, Read John 13:1. Where do you most need to remember that Christ’s love for you is secure (Romans 8:38-39), even when life feels uncertain or painful?

2. The Lowest Place, Read John 13:3–5

- What is Jesus doing by taking such a lowly position that gives his disciples a demonstration of his love?
- What stands out to you about Jesus removing His outer garment and taking the role of a servant? What “outer garment” (status, pride, control, image) might Jesus be inviting you to set aside?
- Read Philippians 2:5–8. How does the washing of feet point us to the future and the cross?
- Why is humility often harder than “activity” when it comes to following Jesus?

3. Receiving Before Doing, Read John 13:6–9

- Peter resists being washed because it requires vulnerability and admits need. You may be carrying deep shame and regret or living with incredibly painful circumstances that make no sense right now. Surrendering control, even understanding, can be one of the hardest acts of faith. Jesus responds gently, but firmly to Peter’s protest in John 13:8b, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”
- What does it look like, practically, to let Jesus “wash” you today—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? (See Psalm 51:10).

## Community Group Sermon Notes January 11, 2026

Congregational Care Pastor, Drew Angus

*Series: Out of the Pew and Into the Purpose*

**Sermon Title:** The Heart of Service – Following Christ’s Example – *John 13:1-17*

**Big Idea:** Serving begins in the heart. Jesus models true greatness by taking the lowest place and invites us to do the same.

**Spring Term – Week 2 of 20**



### 4. Clean, but Still Needing Cleansing, Read John 13:10–11

- Jesus says the disciples are already clean, yet their feet still need washing. How does this help us understand the difference between salvation and daily sanctification (See 1 John 1:7–9)?
- What kinds of “dust” tend to collect on your heart as you walk through everyday life?

### 5. Love Without Return

- Jesus washes Judas’s feet, knowing betrayal is coming (See John 13:18, Matthew 5:44–45). What does this reveal about the nature of Christ’s love and service?
- Reflect on this C.S. Lewis saying: “Love is never wasted, for its value does not rest upon reciprocity.”
- Who is difficult for you to serve right now because there is little gratitude, trust, or return?

### 6. A Cleansed Heart Becomes a Serving Heart, Read Luke 7:37–38, 44–47

- Compare the woman in Luke 7 with the disciples in John 13. What do both stories teach about gratitude and service?
- How does receiving forgiveness and grace fuel generosity rather than obligation (See Matthew 10:8)?
- Reflect on this from Mother Teresa: “Your true character is most accurately measured by how you treat those who can do ‘nothing’ for you.”
- In what ways has Jesus given you a “new legacy” that reshapes how you live and love?

### 7. Go and Do Likewise, Read: John 13:12–17

- As you reflect on Jesus’ searching question “Do you understand what I have done for you?”, will you allow yourself to be cleansed, forgiven, and served by Christ? Or do you resist Jesus because you don’t want to be exposed? Jesus kneels before us, how will you respond? Will you let Jesus wash your feet in your current season of life (home, church, work, relationships)?
- And then – go and do likewise (See Romans 12:1). What is one small, concrete act of service God may be inviting you to practice this week as an act of worship?

**Closing Prayer (Read Together):** Jesus, where do I need to let You wash me—and who are You calling me to serve? Thank you, Christ for Your cleansing love and for hearts of flesh (see Ezekiel 36:25-27) that willingly take the lower place.

### Faith in Action:

- January 13 Adult Fellowship Luncheon, 12 PM, Gym
- January 18 Serve Fair, 10:15 AM & 11:45 AM, Lobby
- January 20 Alpha Launch Party, 6:30 PM, Welcome Center
- January 31 New Members Course, 8:30 AM, A106