

## “STOOPING TO A HIGHER LEVEL”

### **Sermon Scripture: John 13:1-13**

Shine someone's shoes

I began my asking someone to come up and then proceed to shine their shoes. Talk to them about this act while I am doing it.

### **Read Scripture:**

Explain to people

**Know your identity---13:3** ---tells us Jesus knew three things---He knew where He came from---He knew who He was---and He knew where He was going. He was secure-----you must have the security of Jesus before you can really be a servant. As a believer in Christ---I am a child of God---Born into His family through the Spirit---destined to spend eternity with God. I don't have to prove myself---

**Be willing to be served**-----This washing of feet was a common custom in Jewish homes---walked the dusty roads---but no one volunteered---for this was a servant's job. Then look at Peter -----he didn't want to have anything to do with the Lord washing his feet-----

This person must allow me to do this act-----this is sometimes harder than doing the serving. It takes a humble heart to allow yourself to be served---especially when you believe you are the one who should be doing the serving-----if you are prideful and self-righteous and don't want anyone to know you have a need.

We must accept the fact that we all have needs---not only to allow another person to serve us---but to know that we need cleansed from our sin---to get rid of the dirt of the world---

We need this attitude before we can come to Jesus and allow Him to cleanse us from our sin-----and then allow Him to cleanse us daily.

**It is also difficult to serve** especially when you believe that someone else should be doing this task-----but no one volunteered. Just like disciples when they were in the upper room. They wanted to be known as the one who was in charge---not serving the others.

Jesus ask them if they understood what He had done for them-----He being the Master was serving them-----and they should go and do the same.

They were to serve the twelve---but way beyond that---Service starts with our families---father, mother, sister, brother---fellow workers---students---friends---our neighbors-----and moves out to even those who don't think much of us.

Richard McDonald and his brother Maurice started a drive in restaurant in San Bernardino, California in the late forties. Within a few years Ray Kroc bought the proprietary rights and the McDonalds fast-food industry was born.

When Richard McDonald died in the summer of 1998 at the age of 89, it was revealed that the namesake of the most famous fast-food chain in history frequently ate at the McDonalds near his home. He always ordered a cheeseburger, a shake and an order of fries. But much to the chagrin of his grandchildren, McDonald never identified himself to the employees, never cut in line, and always paid full price.

Richard McDonald reflected the kind of humility Jesus modeled and taught.

Jesus didn't say you ought to wash my feet---but others

Jesus set an example for us by serving---People are searching for and will respond to a genuine expression of someone who truly cares for them.

Jesus taught that instead of the world view the one who serves wins the hearts of others. The Apostle Paul taught in Galatians 5:13 that we are to “serve one another in love”

When we stoop to serve we raise our level of authority.

People will listen to us share the gospel as they see us humbly stooping to serve them.

Are you willing to follow Jesus? Are you willing to serve? ” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “**If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**”

You see those who have found Jesus have found something to live for---and even die for.

Sometimes we are fresh and eager to attend worship, but do we feel that same freshness for such mundane tasks as polishing shoes? Serving family---friends---people around us---even if they don’t like us.

Being born again by the Spirit is an unmistakable work of God, as mysterious as the wind, and as surprising as God Himself. Being born again from above is an enduring, perpetual, and eternal beginning. It provides a freshness all the time in thinking, talking, and living—a continual surprise of the life of God. Staleness is an indication that something in our lives is out of step with God. We say to ourselves, “I **have** to do this thing or it will never get done.” This is the first sign of staleness.

Do you feel fresh this very moment or are you stale, frantically searching your mind for something to do? Freshness is not the result of obedience; it comes from the Holy Spirit. Obedience keeps us “in the light as He is in the light ...” (1 John 1:7).

Jealously guard your relationship with God Keep your whole life continually open to Jesus Christ. Don’t just pretend to be open with Him.

Are you drawing your life from any source other than God Himself? If you are depending on something else as your source of freshness and strength, you will not even realize when His power is gone.

Being born of the Spirit means much more than we usually think. It gives us new vision and keeps us absolutely fresh for everything through the never-ending supply of the life of God.

Imagine what might take place in our workplaces, our schools, our neighborhoods or even in our church **if people’s relationship with God were fresh and they started stooping to a higher level---by daring to care for people.**

We are called to demonstrate a different kind of authority---but often what we have done in the church is to import the world’s view.

We could have lighthouses for Jesus everywhere.

What would it take to make your home a lighthouse?? What would it take for each one in your family to stoop to a higher level?

Dare to care---dare to serve---dare to allow yourself to be served-----every week go out of your way to do something kind for someone---not that they see you---but that they see Jesus!! **Why not dare to stoop -----to a higher level!! Allow the Holy Spirit lead you to a higher level.**

