

A Different Understanding of Ourselves – October 6 & 7, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: John 13:1-17

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Describe the way Jesus loves (1). What sense do you have that he loves *you* to the end? What was Judas planning to do (2)? What did Jesus know about this plan (10-11)? During the meal, what did he do (4-5)? Why (3)?
- Summarize Jesus' conversation with Peter (6-10). What did he then explain to the disciples (12-17)? What does he want them to do (14-15)? Ask God to bring this passage to life. What picture is Jesus painting of who should serve, how it should be done, and why it's good to do so? Where do you see yourself in this picture?
- Meditate on verse 15. How exactly does Jesus want you to "do as he has done for you"? In every moment of your life and for each hat you wear, how can you express the servant heart of Jesus to others? Pray for grace to walk this out.

Day Two: Acts 20:13-38

- Summarize Paul's travels (13-16). What did he do in Miletus (17)? What did he say to the leaders from Ephesus about his ministry (18-22)? What about his plans (22-24)? What did he pronounce (25-27)? Tears, severe testing, prison and hardship characterized Paul's life of service. What made it possible for him to endure?
- Paraphrase Paul's advice (28-32). Consider the impact of his words. What warnings must servants of Jesus heed? Which parts speak to you personally? How do you think God wants you to respond? May you walk it out in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul then resumes speaking of his own legacy. What did he say (33-35)? Why do you think he made these remarks? What happened next (36-38)? Urging others to press on in service to the Lord, all while issuing a final goodbye, makes for an emotionally charged atmosphere. Imagine yourself there. What do you see? Hear? Think? Feel in your heart?

Day Three: Romans 6

- What rhetorical question does Paul ask about sin (1)? Summarize his argument against the false teaching that believers can *live* in sin (2-7). Describe where true life is actually found (8-11). To be made alive in Christ is the perfect foundation for a life spent serving him. How is this evident in your own life?
- What should we *not* tolerate, and what should we do (12-13)? Why (14)? Both practically and spiritually, what makes a life of sin one of bondage? What makes serving Jesus a life of freedom?
- What might this life of grace cause some to falsely assume (15)? Describe the spiritual journey from slavery to freedom (16-18). Speak to the Lord about where are you on this journey.
- What leads us to holiness (19)? Contrast enslavement to sin with being a slave to God (20-23). Freedom, holiness and eternal life: meditate on these as the primary things you experience in Christ. How do they fuel you to live a life in service to Jesus?

Day Four: Ephesians 2:1-10

- How does Paul describe one's spiritual state and behavior prior to following Christ (1-3, 5)? At that time, what did we deserve (3)? However, what is the great "but" found in Jesus (4-5)? Jesus will never say to anyone, "But because you served me so well, I will

save you.” Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal any faulty beliefs of this variety. How does he want to liberate you?

- Describe the believer’s current status (6). Why does God do this for us (7)? Picture yourself seated with Jesus. Now, engage all your senses to visualize his kindness overcoming you. What does such closeness and such affection inspire you to do?
- What roles do grace, faith and works play in one’s salvation (8-9)? How do we live as God’s intentional handiwork (10)? How does it feel to be called his “handiwork”? What “good works” do you sense the Lord has prepared for you to do? By accomplishing them, what blessings and fulfillment do you expect to experience?

Day Five: Colossians 3:23-24

- Describe the way we should work, no matter what it entails (23). Make a list of all you do: work, school, chores, volunteering, activism, serving friends and neighbors, childrearing, eldercare, etc. Envision doing each task “with all your heart, as working for the Lord.” How does this compare to your usual approach? Pray for grace and power to always “work at it with all your heart.”
- *Why* should we work “with all our heart, as working for the Lord” (24)? What do you think Paul means by “an inheritance”? Do you ever daydream about or expect a different sort of blessing? Confess any disappointment to the Lord. What is his response?
- When Paul tells us again that in all we do, “it is the Lord Christ you are serving,” what stirs within you? Pray the Holy Spirit would remind you of this often, at just the right times – when you’re inclined to make an excuse, relegate service to just one part of your life, etc. What impact do you think this will make?