

SERMON: SERVE AS JESUS / 24.9.2023

Jesus has called us to be His disciples. In what ways should it be most evident that we are His disciples? Alternatives for possible answers:

- We know the Bible well
- We are obedient to God and our leaders
- We work on ourselves
- We are full of the Holy Spirit

Biblical answer: John 13:1-17 - the answer is SERVING.

Signs of Jesus' ministry:

- It comes from love (John 13:1: "Now before the feast of the Passover, it was clear to Jesus that the time had come for him to go away from this world to the Father. Having once had love for those in the world who were his, his love for them went on to the end.") - THE MOTOR OF SERVICE
- He comes from the knowledge of his identity (John 13:3: " Jesus, being conscious that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he came from God and was going to God,") - SOURCE OF SERVICE
- Means putting aside "one's own" - humility overturning social status (John 13:4: "Got up from table, put off his robe and took a cloth and put it round him.") - THE BASIS OF SERVICE.
- Quote: "Without service accompanied by self-denial there is no progress, only victory over self gives strength".
- The purpose is to purify us and invite us into a relationship with God (John 13:8: " Peter said, I will never let my feet be washed by you, never. Jesus said in answer, If I do not make you clean you have no part with me.") - THE POINT OF SERVICE

And what does that mean for us?

- We are to receive the ministry of Jesus and serve one another (John 13:14: " If then I, the Lord and the Master, have made your feet clean, it is right for you to make one another's feet clean.")
- We are to serve according to Jesus' example, pattern (John 13:15: "I have given you an example, so that you may do what I have done to you."). So too, our service is to be based on love and the recognition of our identity, putting aside our prejudices, pride and comfort, helping others to seek God and grow in relationship with Him, manifested in deeds, concrete actions (see John 13:17; Matthew 5:16: "Even so let your light be shining before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.").
- Sinek: "Humanity is driven by service to others (not profit, knowledge, comfort,...)"

Key message: mutual service after the example of Jesus is the ultimate expression of the discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Short story: A writer had a dream. In it, a man stood before the throne of God and said to God, "Lord, I have kept your law, I have done nothing dishonest, evil, ungodly. My hands are clean." And God said, "Certainly, but they are empty!"

Jesus' call: We should be messengers of God's love, helping each other to draw closer to God.

Application: let us each answer (and answer again and again) the question: Whom and how can and should I serve, whom and how can and should I be a messenger of Jesus' love.