

5. Read Luke 22:24-27, Jesus underscoring service in response to a dispute among the disciples about greatness.

Luke 22: <sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

How did being secure in his identity and status with God help Jesus serve others?

6. Thinking back to the three kingdoms described in the sermon, most of us live in each of these kingdoms periodically despite our efforts to live solely as citizens of heaven living in this world. Reflect on which kingdom best describes your current thoughts and actions. What steps can you take this week to renew your mind and focus on serving others as a citizen of heaven?

7. Think of the people you praying for people on your BLESS list? (we've also referred to this list as our "Top Five"). What are some ways you could seek to serve them this week? Spend some time praying for God to give you the opportunity to serve.

### **BLESS - Part 6**

"Serve in Love"

John 13:1-5

What if you could learn a way to share your faith, where the timing feels right, the beginning point makes sense, it doesn't feel forced, you've earned the relational credibility, and what you share is appreciated by the other person?

#### **The 5 BLESS Missional Practices:**

- **B**egin with prayer.
- **L**isten with care.
- **E**at together (share your life).
- **S**erve in love.
- Share your story.

Serving in love \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, and mobilizes God's \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

#### **A BATTLE OF THREE KINGDOMS**

1. In the kingdom of this world the goal is to accumulate, and \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. In our own kingdoms, we are in \_\_\_\_\_ , and will do as we see fit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and selfish hearts are the rulers of this kingdom.

In the Bible, pride is not referred to as simple arrogance or the drawing of attention to oneself. Instead it means hubris: preferring self-will to God's will. It is the opposite of following God. This type of pride is overcome when we can say with Jesus, "Not my will, but Thy will be done."

3. Our true \_\_\_\_\_ is found in the kingdom of God.

1. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom that Jesus is revealing to his disciples.

Three kingdoms. Which kingdom best describes the current orientation of your heart?

## A MISSION TO BLESS THE WORLD THROUGH LOVING SERVICE

Jesus reveals his life's purpose to reveal God's nature as a being of \_\_\_\_\_ love.

The spirit will empower Jesus' followers to carry on this \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts of generosity are to be the hallmark of Jesus' followers. We are to serve in love, not just because Jesus said so, but because it is by our acts of loving service that we carry out the mission of the Kingdom of God. When we serve, we BLESS the world around us by bearing witness the truth of the God who loves. In other words people will know God's love first through our loving acts of service.

Our actions of self-giving love not only teach the world who God is, they also serve as the best way to teach and pass on our faith to the next generation.

The path to finding who to serve and how to serve are as simple as following the Five Missional Practices represented by B.L.E.S.S.

- **B**egin with prayer.
- **L**isten with care.
- **E**at together (share your life).
- **S**erve in love.
- Share your story.

### Additional Notes:

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read John 13:1-5. John's account says that Jesus, "...showed them the full extent of his love." In other words he was proving his love through service both by how served them and by who he served in this moment. How is that?
3. What kind of menial service might be a contemporary parallel to foot-washing today?
4. Self-sacrificing service requires new rhythms in our lives. Which acts of service come naturally to you? Where would you like to grow in the way you love and serve others? Consider starting at home with your spouse, kids, siblings, and family members. Consider washing your loved ones feet.