ICON

THE EMPOWERING INVITATION OF THE CROSS

Discussion Guide

PART 3

Rich Barrett

Bible Reading

Read John 13:1-17 (it's long, so maybe break it up)

Observation Questions

1. In John 13:1-5, what does Jesus know about his authority, where he has come from, and where he is going? What does he do with that knowledge? [01:02:39]

2. What failures lie ahead for Peter, Thomas, and Judas, whose feet Jesus washes along with the other disciples? [59:14]

3. In John 13:12-17, how does Jesus connect his position as their Lord and Teacher with the example he expects his disciples to follow? [01:00:19]

Interpretation Questions

1. Jesus does not deny his authority when he washes his disciples' feet. How does his example challenge the idea that serving others makes a leader less important or less effective? [01:00:26]

2. Jesus serves disciples who will let him down. What does this reveal about whether humble service depends on another person deserving it or returning the favor? [01:05:08]

3. How does Jesus' foot washing help explain the cross as both an invitation into relationship with God and a pattern for everyday life? What would be missing if someone embraced the invitation but ignored the pattern? [46:54]

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Application Questions

1. Think of a recent moment when you felt overlooked or did not receive the treatment you expected. What did your reaction reveal about your expectations of recognition or service? [40:18]

2. Where do you have influence - at home, at work, at church, or among friends? What is one way you could use that influence this week primarily for someone else's benefit? [45:35]

3. Jesus was secure in who he was and could freely serve. When does concern about how others see you make serving difficult? How might being fully known and deeply loved by God help you loosen your grip on recognition? [46:45]

4. What ordinary task do you usually expect someone else to do for you? What might it look like to take that task on for another person this week, without drawing attention to yourself? [01:04:44]

5. Without sharing names or private details, is there someone whose disappointment of you has made you less willing to show kindness? What could a wise, humble act of service toward that person look like without pretending the hurt does not matter? [59:14]

6. Humble service can make faith visible in ways a title cannot. What practical need could you help meet in your church or neighborhood, even if the role brings little recognition? What would help you take a first step? [01:12:22]

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