

“The Talk in the Upper Room

John 13:1-14:31

Tuesday Bible Lunch

March 19, 2024

Introduction: For three years, Jesus prepared His disciples for the time that He would no longer be with them. On His last night with them physically, Jesus gave the twelve their final instructions. To me the interesting thing is the first thing Jesus mentioned.

The first thing Jesus taught them was to have a servant’s heart (John 13:1-17).

- He taught them by showing them.
- Jesus washed their feet as a symbolic example of humble service (John 13:15).
- The word “example” could be translated “pattern.”
- Jesus knew the twelve would change roles from followers to leaders.
- Jesus wanted them to lead with servant’s hearts.
- Jesus knew they needed this last reminder.

Application: I said last Tuesday and repeat today, there is no greater thing that can be said about a person than that they have a servant’s heart.

Question: Have you ever wondered why some people have a servant’s heart and others don’t?

1. Are some people just born with a servant’s heart?
2. Do people develop a servant’s heart?

Here is what I believe. Life is like a school. Let's call it the school of life.

1. In the school of life, some are fast learners.
2. Some are slow learners.
3. Some are non-learners.

In the Christian school of life, just like in universities, there are different schools.

Illustration: A university will have a business school, an education school, an engineering school, a school of health science, etc.

Illustration: The Christian school of life will have a patience school, a forgiveness school, a trust God's Word school, etc.

Application: Sometimes God uses His chastening to help us learn.

- The word in the Bible translated "chastening" conveys discipline.
- God has ways to discipline us to learn.
- Chastening is like "enforced learning."
- The Bible says, "Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrew 12:5-6).
- Proverbs 3:11-12 is the classic Scripture on chastening.

There are three kinds of chastening:

1. Internal—through the Word of God (the Bible)
2. External—through circumstances
3. Terminal—Premature death (1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 John 5:16)

Conclusion: A good Bible example of a servant's heart is Paul and Barnabus in Lystra. They healed a crippled man who from birth had never walked. The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. Paul said, "We also are men with the same nature as you" (Acts 14:15). They had servant's hearts.

I said last week that in my profession, ministers who have a servant's heart has become the exception. Thankfully, there are some, but not as many as there used to be.

We are blessed at First Baptist to have on our staff ministers with a servant's heart.

And I know ministers elsewhere who have a servant's heart.

I know members who have a servant's heart.

An example of a minister and a member in our church is Dr. Jim Hastings.

- Dr. Jim has a servant's heart.
- He has been a minister over 50 years.
- He is a Bible student and outstanding Bible teacher.
- What separates Dr. Jim from many others is that he has a desire to serve quietly and help in ways only God knows.

Jesus is the best example. Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).