

Helping Hands

The Heart of a Servant

Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

(Galatians 5:13–14, New International Version)

(John 13:1–15, New Living Translation)

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

² *It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.*

⁴ *So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.*

WHY SHOULD I OFFER HELPING HANDS?

1. Serving lets me show others God's love.

- Love others by doing the jobs no one wants to do.

⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

2. Serving others gives me strength and energy.

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

(James 4:6, NLT)

Though he was God, . . . [Jesus] gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. . . . [Then] he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:6–8, NLT)

⁸ 'No,' Peter protested 'you will never ever wash my feet!' Jesus replied, 'Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me.'

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, 'Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!'

¹⁰ Jesus replied, 'A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.' ¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

- Love your enemies by serving them.

Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

(Luke 6:27–29, NLT)

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, 'Do you understand what I was doing?' ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.'

3. Serving makes me like Jesus.

God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.

(Romans 8:29, NLT)

- Love others by your example.