

## Greater Love: John 13.1-5 | March 11, 2018

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### Opening Thoughts

- When we arrive at the Passover table, with Jesus, with the disciples, we arrive at a meal a long time in the making. This is a point of reference for Israel and will become a point of reference for all Jesus-followers to come.
- People's final words and gestures are remembered for a long time. The table helps us to see how we are reconciled to God through the cross.

### John 13.1-5

- Jesus knew his authority. The Genesis word of God was all wrapped up in him, that same power, that authority.
- But Jesus will act differently with his power and authority, not overlording it or exerting it. Jesus, says John, "lay aside" or "takes off" his outer clothes in order to serve. He lays aside what he might *dress up in* and takes the role of a servant.
- Paul picks up on this in Philippians 2.6-8. Jesus didn't posture, he chose the greater love. And he calls us to this same kind of action and love. A servant, he says elsewhere (John 15.20) isn't greater than their master.
- So, who is our master? We must keep that question in the front of our minds.
- Jesus puts on the towel of a servant and washes the disciple's feet. When we talk about the table we can't forget about the towel.
- This isn't about making a name for ourselves as those who would exhibit "greater love", this is about making a name for Jesus wherever we find ourselves.

### **Discussion Questions**

- How does God serve us? Where else do we see this in scripture?
- How does Jesus' example inspire you? Who else have you watched and been inspired by that have followed Jesus' example of service/
- In what ways do you feel God has used you to be able to serve? How do you long to serve? What is God speaking to you about concerning service?