

**Mar. 30 - Scripture:** Luke 22: 1-46  
*Verses that speak to you:* vv. 25-26

*Observation:* It is ironic that at the same time as Jesus is humbling Himself unto death, his chosen disciples are arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus points out the difference between unbelieving leaders and the kind of leaders they are called to be. Other leaders exalt themselves. They may call themselves "benefactors" or "helpers" (another translation of the word) but the disciples are to actually be what those leaders only claimed to be: helpers, servants who wait upon others. He tells them what they should already have learned from the ways in which He served them. He, the Creator of the Universe, had washed their dirty feet. Jesus uses another comparison: that those who consider themselves "greater" (in experience, wisdom, age, abilities, or whatever) should act as if they were the new kid on the block. I understand this as another way of saying they should act humbly, specifically in not being know-it-alls, but willing to learn. Jesus tells the His disciples how to live as servants, but He Himself went much further than that: He served by dying. I imagine that in this final lesson on servanthood, Jesus was preparing them to understand His ultimate act of loving service in atoning death. Only united to Him in His death can we be united to Him in new life, and begin now to live this kind of life of service that we will enjoy with Him for eternity.

*Application:* I have been served by Christ in the greatest way possible, through His death on my behalf. I want to live my life as one united to Him, one who serves as she has been served. I want to be His hands and His lips to people today. But self can get in the way. The fact that the disciples-the top tier in leadership in the primitive church-could be so self-seeking is a warning to me that I am not above the same. In my role as a teacher I am also a leader. There is a tendency, in at least some Latin American countries, to put Americans on pedestals, which poses a temptation for the missionary to let that go to her head! There is also always the possibility of making the means (teaching well, students learning well) an end in itself.

This passage keeps servanthood and humility in the foreground. I want to say with John the Baptist, "He must become greater; I must become less" (Jn 3:30 NIV). Serving people is a practical way to love them. If I am overly focused on what they think of me and whether my service is appreciated, then that gets in the way of service! As my professor, Ed Welch says, we all should love people more, and "need" them less. I want to serve people without expecting anything in return. I never want to think that I have "arrived" in terms of spiritual growth and knowledge. Even when I am the oldest Christian in the room, I still have plenty to learn.

*Prayer:* Lord Jesus, I love You! Thank you for serving me by dying for me, and making me, your enemy, into your friend and disciple. Thank you for the incredible privilege of serving in You and in Your Name. Humble me through service. Make me desire to serve more than to be served. Help me to love others more than need something from them to feel good about myself. Use me to love people with Your love. Enable me to see the opportunities in every moment to love others in practical ways, and in doing so may I reflect You to them, for Your glory and their salvation. Teach me every day through your Word and Your people, and give me the heart of a learner, always.

*Writer:* Natalie Carley - I have been a missionary supported by Eastminster since 2001. My brother Joe and sister-in-law Kim are members. I feel like every year I forget more of what I learned at seminary. yet at the same time I appreciate my Savior and the privilege of teaching His Word more and more. My lifelong goal is to grow in love for God and others. God also gives me joy in friendships, bright colors, mountains, dancing, spicy foods, and ice cream.