

## New Example

**Opening Question:** *Who is someone that taught you something valuable that is still paying dividends in your life?*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael talked about a pastor friend who taught him to have less passionate opinions and rooting interests but instead to root for people regardless of region, colors, or affiliation.

**Ask them:** *What did you think of that notion?*

**Tell them:** This week we looked at John 13:1- 17 where we encountered God and humanity. We saw that Jesus knew His time had come to return to the Father and that the Father sent the Son. We also saw that Jesus was leaving us with a new example of how to live our lives of faith. We are called to live lives of:

1. **Service – Ask them:** *What do we see as our example of service in John 13:2-5? How can we live out this example besides washing the feet of other believers? Tell them:* Pastor Michael said that this passage tells us that humanity tends to:
  - a. *Let others do the dirty work*
  - b. *be too proud to accept service*
  - c. *be self-interested to get all we can*

**Ask them:** *What do you think about this assessment?*

2. **Humility – Ask them:** *How does John 13:6-8 reveal the humility of Christ? Tell them:* Andrew Murray called humility the foundation of all righteousness.  
**Ask them:** *Why do you think that might be true?*
3. **Leading – Tell them:** “Jesus revealed that there are two basic primary ways of leading: by example or by command. Jesus modeled by example. Jesus modeled by example in John when He washed feet. And He commanded it here in Matthew. He used actions and commands.”
  - a. **Trust:** Jesus was a new kind of leader. He knew Judas was going to betray Him, but He still served him anyway. (John 13:21-27)  
**Ask them:** *How is this different than a human leader who discovers betrayal in his ranks? Tell them:* Pastor Michael said that a godly leader, “lets people go to do their will, knowing that His Father’s will, will ultimately be done; that His enemies will actually serve

God's will and bring God glory." **Ask them:** *What do you think about that idea? How might this apply to the people in your life who aren't doing what you think they should do? (Note: the only difference between Peter and Judas denial of Christ is that one accepted Jesus' grace and the other didn't)*

- b. **Greatness:** Jesus said that *whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" (Matthew 20:25-28) **Ask them:** *How does this differ from the normal idea of greatness?*

#### 4. Following

- a. **Love – Tell them:** In John 13:34-35, Jesus leaves us with a new command. *"I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another."* **Ask them:** *How should this command affect the way we lead and/or follow? How might it affect competition, confession, church?*
- b. **A new Way – Tell them:** In John 14:1-6, Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them. He tells them the only way to get to the Father is through Him. He says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* This is not just a new example of a way to God, but THE way. **Ask them:** *What does this tell us about the universal idea that there are many paths to God? How do you feel about that idea?*

#### Examine your heart

**Tell them:** At the end of our study of God's Word, Pastor Michael likes to ask us to examine our hearts. I thought it would be good for us to talk about His questions:

1. How can we humbly serve others? Philippians 2:3 says, *"Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself"* **Ask them:** How can we live like that this week? What things might we do differently online, at work, at home, with this thought in mind?
2. How can we humbly accept others service? Luke 14:11 *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will*

*be exalted.” Ask them: How is accepting others service to us an act of humility?*

3. How can we lead sacrificially? Colossians 3:12 says, “*Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,*” **Ask them:** *What are we sacrificing when we act according to this verse? In the areas where you lead, how would this attitude change how you lead?*
4. How can we love sacrificially? **Ask them:** *What about in the areas where we love? How can this verse change our love relationships?*
5. How can our lives be new examples of God’s truth and grace? **Tell them:** Both truth and grace are meant to be a part of the life of faith. **Ask them:** *Do you major on truth over grace or on grace over truth? In what ways can we encourage one another to be balanced in truth and in grace? (speaking the solemn truth, not rejoicing in the hard truths)*

**Tell them:** Pastor Michael talked about sharing your opinions on God more. But also sharing grace when they don’t listen to us. **Ask them:** *What do you think about that idea?*

**Tell them:** Oftentimes we take it personally when others don’t share our opinion on faith. But part of sharing grace and trusting God’s sovereignty is not taking it personally but, instead, allowing God to do what He will do with the lives of others. This week let’s pray that we will share truth and grace with those we love.

### **Tweetable Quotes and Thoughts to Ponder**

1. A godly leader lets people go do their own will, knowing that His Father’s will, will ultimately be done; that His enemies’ actions will actually serve God’s will and bring God glory.
2. Share your opinions on God more and then share grace if and when they don’t agree.