

BLESS: Serve

Opener: When have you done something to serve others and ended up being the one most blessed?

Scripture: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:14-17

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. Luke 22:27

Discussion Questions

1. Another way we can bless others is by serving them. One who serves helps others and meets needs. In Matt. 5:13 Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth.” Salt makes a difference. It seasons, cures, and preserves. How do those functions line up with blessing others by serving them?
2. What is Jesus implying when he says salt that loses its saltiness is useless? How can we lose our saltiness? Matthew 5:13
3. Jesus added, “You are the light of the world.” Light makes a difference. It dispels darkness, makes things grow, and can change moods and appetites. How do those functions bless others by serving them? How can letting our light shine influence others for Christ? Matthew 5:14-16
4. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says we should let our light shine so others will see our good deeds and glorify our heavenly Father. How can our good deeds glorify God? Examples?
5. In John 13 we’re told that Jesus chose to wash His disciples’ feet the night before His crucifixion. What point was He making? Who do you know who has served others when no one would have blamed them if they had expected others to serve them? John 13:15; Luke 22:27
6. Why does serving others go against our grain? Why do we resist serving even those we care about most? What acts of service come naturally to you and which are most difficult?
7. How does being a salty, shining Christian make a difference in our personal witness? How does that apply to the church as a whole?

Wrap Up: It's a classic tale, the story of Ebenezer Scrooge—the epitome of selfishness, the quintessential mean-spirited, miserly old man. Yet when Scrooge discovered the joy of doing good deeds, as the story goes, a merrier man had never been seen. We all know about someone who has impressed the world by doing something that serves others, the most important being Jesus who gave His life on a cross. But for us, what typically makes life meaningful are those small acts of service we extend to each other day in and day out. Those small acts are most often the first way God expresses His love and kindness to others through us.