

SCRIPTURES FOR 1/28/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

John 21:15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

John 13:1-17

1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. **2** The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew

that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." **8** "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." **9** "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" **10** Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. **12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Luke 22:24-27

24 *Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.* **25** Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. **26** But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. **27** 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."

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed



STEWARDSHIP AS LORDSHIP

Why Is Lordship Necessary?

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

OPENING:

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: _____

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: _____

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Jeff began to discuss the necessity of lordship and the consequences of not submitting to it.

Q: Jeff asked, "Who is in your wallet?" What are some other ways you can tell what people's priorities are?

DIG DEEPER:

Jeff read a particular story that is significant to this discussion (*John 21:15-17*). This is another opportunity to see the humor, brotherly love, and leadership skill of Jesus manifest. There are two cool things about this passage. First Jesus asks three times if Peter loves Him – the first two times using the word *agapao*, Greek for unconditional love for which we use the word *agape* – to which Peter responds that he loves Jesus, using the word *phileo*, Greek for brotherly love or friendship and where we get Philadelphia. The third time, Jesus uses Peter's word, *phileo*.

Q: Why do you think Peter uses a different word in response? (*embarrassment, etc.*) Why do you think Jesus changes his wording the last time?

The second cool thing about this story is the parallel with another story (*Mt. 26:69-75*).

Q: Why is this parallel significant?

APPLICATION:

(*Have someone read John 13:1-17*)

Q: Was this supposed to usher in a "practice" or "ritual?" If not, what did Jesus mean about an "example?"

LORDSHIP SETTLES THE POSITION ISSUE

When Peter refuses at first, Jeff suggests that there is more to it than embarrassment at Jesus doing servant work. Perhaps Peter was thinking, "I wouldn't even do that?"

Q: Why did Jesus pick this exact time to model servant leadership? (*go to a different gospel - Luke 22:24-27*)

Q: How is this a "lordship" issue?

Q: Why is Peter so quick to flip-flop on this?

CONCLUSION

Q: Can you put Jesus first and settle the "position issue" by washing the feet of others (or a modern equivalent)?

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____