

The Basin and the Towel

I can’t help but imagine what must have been going through the disciples’ minds when they entered the upper room and Jesus took the basin and the towel to wash their feet. Duane Elmer writes in Cross-Cultural Servanthood how the disciples so often were seeking after the robe and the status that comes with it rather than Jesus’ model of the towel and of serving others. Jesus even told the disciples that they were to follow His example of servanthood.

On your short-term mission trip, you had plenty of opportunities to have a servant’s heart towards your teammates and to those in your host culture. Now that you are home, there continue to be opportunities all around you to put a servant’s heart into practice. Some are as simple as being a courteous driver, allowing people in front of you in traffic. Others may require you to stretch yourself as you seek to serve your neighbour in a practical way.

Some Christian Radio stations have challenged their listeners with the “Drive-Through Difference”, paying for the person behind you the next time you go through the drive-thru.

The key, though, is to develop the same attitude Jesus had, even though He was God, He humbled Himself to become a man. And when He was man, He chose to serve rather than be served. That’s the attitude, not, “Look out for number one,” but having eyes for others and a heart that serves.

On the Next Mile website, there are 20 Mile Markers with ideas that you could implement with your team or just on your own to practically serve both globally and locally. GoConnect is an organization aimed at trying to challenge people to meet the needs of the community around them.

Just start by asking God to open your eyes to the needs all around you. Maybe you want to join The 15 Revolution, asking God to inconvenience you for just 15 minutes a day. The possibilities are endless, what can you do to serve a neighbour, serve at church, or help a stranger?

Mow the lawn for an elderly person in your community

Provide a meal or warm clothing to a homeless person

Give the children’s workers in your church a Sunday off by taking their class

Leave a bag of groceries or some cash at the door of a family as God leads you

Send a care package to a missionary on the field

The possibilities are endless, but it all comes down to “Basin Theology.” What is that you ask? Remember what Pilate did when he had the chance to acquit Jesus? He called for a basin and washed his hands of the whole thing. Jesus, however, on the night before his death called for a basin and proceeded to wash the feet of the disciples. It all comes down to basin theology; which one will you use?