

**Series: The Authentic Christian
Following Jesus
John 13:1-17**

Introduction

Over the next few weeks, we will examine what it takes to be an ardent follower of Jesus. We'll start with Jesus' foundational call and promise to his followers in John Chapter 13.

1. Jesus knew that His hour had _____.
2. According to Jewish tradition, a household _____ would wash the feet of a guest rabbi.
3. Jesus' disciples were all trying to avoid this task, so they began to argue which of them was the _____.
4. Jesus realizes what the disciples are arguing about and, without saying a word, assumes the role of the household _____ and washes his disciples' feet.
5. Authentic Christians will humbly serve people who don't _____ to be served.
6. Jesus says the way to true _____ is by giving yourself service to and for others!
7. If you try to save your life, thinking only of yourself, you will, in the end, _____ true happiness and instead experience emptiness and misery.

I. Two Different Paths

8. One way you can tell is to look at what you _____ on.

9. When you think about the key people in your life, the self-serving path focuses on how others treat _____.
10. The self-serving person focuses on having enough time "for _____" to do what I want to do.
11. The self-giving person values their free time but always has enough time to _____ others.
12. The self-serving path focuses on getting all it _____.
13. The self-giving path values and enjoys things but focuses on using its resources to be a _____ to those suffering or struggling.
14. The self-serving path focuses on getting the _____ it deserves.
15. However, the self-giving path is thankful for pleasant circumstances but focuses on what Christ _____ through the circumstances.

II. Two Different Results

16. Authentic Christians, even though they're imperfect, _____ the sacrificial self-giving path and can testify that Jesus is right about where it leads.
17. The self-serving path always leads to a deepening sense of _____.
18. Following Jesus leads to a life of contentment with what you have because following Him makes your life full and _____.
19. The self-serving path leads to relational _____.

20. Following Jesus and living the Christian life always leads to greater relational _____.
21. The self-serving path leads to a sense of slavery and victimization and feeling _____.
22. The Christlike self-giving path leads to a growing sense of _____.
23. The self-serving path leads to a lot of emotional _____.
24. Following Christ leads to a growing and stable emotional _____.
25. We are to be praise _____, not praise containers!

III. Receiving God's Love

26. You must know that God loves you and _____ on his love to pass his love on to others.
27. Jesus had no _____ to feed and was perfectly content with who he was!
28. As God's adopted sons and daughters, even though we were sinners, God _____ us because of who we are in Christ.
29. We know we have eternal life and will live forever in God's kingdom even though we _____ to go to hell.

Conclusion

30. You will know when you have chosen to follow Jesus because, by faith, you will want to _____ God's love to others.

31. You can't _____ God's love for yourself.

32. If you try, it goes _____ inside you, and you will wind up returning to the path of the self-serving.

We must trust Christ's love and "get up and wash the feet" of those God puts in our path even when we don't feel like it. Trust God's promise and sell out to this as a way of life. It will lead to a confident and satisfying life.

Answers

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|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. come | 12. wants | 23. anxiety |
| 2. servant | 13. blessing | 24. health |
| 3. greatest | 14. breaks | 25. conduits |
| 4. slave | 15. teaches | 26. rely |
| 5. deserve | 16. embrace | 27. ego |
| 6. happiness | 17. discontent | 28. accepts |
| 7. forfeit | 18. meaningful | 29. deserve |
| 8. focus | 19. failure | 30. give |
| 9. you | 20. success | 31. hoard |
| 10. myself | 21. used | 32. stale |
| 11. help | 22. freedom | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Jesus says there are only two ways to live your life. You will either be self-serving or self-giving. Which path do you find yourself following most of the time? Why?
2. Each of these paths has specific results. Do you ever find yourself feeling discontent, relationally failed, used, anxious, or generally unhappy? Could that be because you are following the wrong path? What can you do to help follow the path Jesus describes in scripture which produces better results?
3. God loves you and sacrificed himself for you. What prevents you from more fully sacrificing yourself for others?