

**A Servant's Heart:
Willing****Background**

- John's story takes place in the Middle East, which was a very dusty place! People wore sandals and feet were very dirty. It was an important part of hospitality to have one's feet washed when entering a house and traditionally it was the role of the household servants to wash people's feet.

Observe: *What's there?*

- Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.
- Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.
- Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

Interpret: *What does it mean?*

- Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?
- Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.
- Answer your questions from the text and context.
- Why is this passage or story here? Try to summarize it in one sentence.

John 13:3 - 17

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, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their 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 Very truly I tell you, 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.

Application: *So what?*

(Tear this off as a reminder for the week)

As you end your study, reflect on how Jesus may be inviting you to apply these passages to your life:

- Think about a way you could serve people by doing a task that people don't want to do. What would it look like to do this in a hospital? At school? A hard job? Determine what you would need to serve people in that way this week.

Write your personal application commitment here: