

# Image Bearers of God Serving Image Bearers of God



**Bro. Chris Lawrence**

**John 13:1–5**

The last few weeks we've been going through what it means to be a member at Hardin Baptist Church. We've talked about gathering and importance of coming here of gathering and hearing the Word of God preached and taught. Not just gathering but connecting to truly have relationships with the body of Christ here with brothers and sisters at Hardin Baptist Church. Today, we're going to talk about serving and using our gifts and abilities to serve and help build up the body of Christ for the glory of God. As we in talk through serving, I am reminded of a guy named Horst Schulze. He was from Germany and he was born and raised right around the end of World War II. At around eleven years old, this man decided that he really wanted to be in the hotel industry. Now at that time the country was just ravaged from the war, so it wasn't like there were even hotels around but he just had this desire to do that. So a few years later, his parents find a job for him about sixty miles away from where they were living. It was this nice hotel and he got a job doing dishes and various duties. Schulze says very first day it changed his life because his manager told him, "Don't come to work to work, come here to create excellence in what you're doing. Whether it be washing dishes, changing

beds, cleaning up tables, you are here to create excellence.” He writes that he was amazed by the manager he was working for, because he treated each person he saw, whether it be customer or employee, he would always treat them like a lady or gentleman. He just treated everyone with so much respect. Just two years later at age sixteen, he writes a paper in school about his experience of working at this hotel, and in it, he says it was “ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen.” Years down the road, he becomes the co-founder and president of the Ritz-Carlton, and that phrase becomes the business mantra of the Ritz, “We are Ladies and Gentlemen Serving Ladies and Gentlemen.”

We're going to change that up just a little bit. At Hardin Baptist Church, “We want to be Image Bearers of God Serving Image Bearers of God.” The reason I picked that is because no matter whether you're a saint or whether you're a sinner, we are all image bearers of God—and we are called to serve saints *and* sinners. The example of this is Jesus. Looking at the life of Jesus, there are three points we're going to really hit on this morning. The first point if we're going to have excellent service, it involves suffering like Jesus. That's a good way to start out a sermon, saying we're going to have to suffer, right! Point two is excellent serving involves loving people by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Point three is excellent serving involves trusting our heavenly Father. To break this down, we're going to look at John 13 where Jesus washes the disciple's feet.

## **Scripture**

***“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”***

Point one of excellent service. If we're going to do this well, we have to realize there are times, if you're going to commit to serve at Hardin Baptist Church, it's going to be difficult. There are going to be challenges and you're going to deal with hard situations. Right now in First Fruits Farm, there might be a diaper that needs to be changed. Right now in some of these classes around this building, there are going to be situations that pop up that are going to involve people getting out of their comfort zone and dealing with whatever situation it might be. I mean, serving can be difficult, it can be hard; it can humble you.

We're getting ready for our college spring break trips here in a few months. We've been going to the Native American Reservation in Arizona for years, and studying for this sermon reminded me of a group that we took several years ago. This group was just awesome. I mean, these students were 19, 20, 21 year olds and they were fired up for God. They're reading God's Word, sharing the gospel with atheists and agnostics, just trying to reach the campus of Murray State, and they were active in church. So they were fired up to serve at the VBS we planned for the Native American students there. Third, fourth, fifth graders can't be hard, right? They've got this in the bag! This is one of the biggest VBS's we've ever had out there. So the first night, there are just kids going everywhere and these kids were out of control. I remember the first night my college students were strong, ready to go—the third, fourth, and fifth graders just absolutely dominated them. I mean, you hear people say someone is “trying to burn the building down,” but these kids literally tried to burn the building down! One of the kids that night had matches in his pocket and was literally lighting a match, trying to set the trailer on fire! At the debriefing time we have when we get back, it was obvious that it was just hard on these 19, 20, 21 year old students.

The point is no matter how smart you are, no matter how gifted you are, no matter what your situation is, when you serve it can be hard, and it can be humbling. But the good news is Jesus has set an example for us. In this example, we see how He washes the disciple's feet, and ultimately, what He does on the cross for us. Now, when we look at this passage, we've gotta ask a few questions. Why would people wash people's feet in John

13? Why would this occur? Well, during this time period, they did not have shoes like you and I have shoes; they had sandals. Your feet dirty in sandals, so when you went to somebody's house they would have a basin of water there to wash your feet. But the master of the house wouldn't wash your feet; the servant of the house washed your dirty, nasty feet. But who washes the feet in this passage? Jesus does. The master becomes a servant. Now, it's interesting that here He's focused on teaching the disciples about serving. Let's think through what all is going on in His life as He's doing this. One, at this passage at the very beginning, His hour had come. Now, He is going back to the Father, but His hour had come to take on the sin of the world. In the parallel passage in Luke, it says He desired to eat the Passover feast before He suffers. So as He's serving, He's getting ready to suffer on the cross. On top of that, in this passage we learn what else? Satan's at work, Satan's at work with one of Jesus's own disciples. So Jesus is dealing with Satan, He's dealing with taking on the cross, and in the midst of this, He's getting down and washing some dirty feet. Why? So the disciples will learn how to serve to be like Him. He's setting an example for them. He literally says it in the passage. Let's skip down to John chapter 13 verses 12–15, "When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.'" The point He's making here is he is doing this so they'll be like Him and serve. He wants them to serve.

I think another question to ask is who exactly is Jesus serving? He's serving the disciples. Let's make some observations about the disciples at this time. The whole point is the master becomes a servant. And what does He want His followers to do? To serve. Do you know what they do? In the parallel passage in Luke, you think they would say oh Jesus, you're great, we're praying...no, they do the exact opposite. They start debating, and they are debating about who is the greatest. They totally missed the point. Not only that, if you read in John 13:6–11, there are people that He's bringing up in that passage. He's bringing up Peter and this conversation with Peter who's saying I don't want you to wash my feet. Jesus says I

have to wash your feet to be clean. And Peter says then I want my whole body washed. Jesus says you just need your feet washed, but there's one who's not clean...that's the one who betrays me. So we got two people it's talking about, Peter and Judas. Now, let's think about Peter. Peter thinks he's got his act together, but very shortly, what is Peter going to do? Deny Jesus three times. Guess whose feet Jesus' washed? Peter's. Who else's feet does He wash? Judas, the one who betrays Him. I'm just blown away by this. Now, let's think through this a little bit. At the very beginning when Jesus is choosing His apostles (Luke 6), what does He do? He goes to the mountain and prays all night. He loses a night of sleep to hear from His Father of who are the people He's supposed to serve and give His life to, and that's a sacrifice. I mean, think about praying literally all night for you to figure out who you're supposed to serve and leave. That's what Jesus does and Judas is one of them.

John chapter 12, if you look in that passage, there's another foot washing service. The disciple's feet are not getting washed, do you notice whose feet are getting washed? Jesus's. Lazarus is there, Mary is there, Martha is there, the disciples are there, we have all these people there, and Mary gets some expensive ointment and she puts it on Jesus' feet. If you read on in the passage, the reason they're doing that is for the burial of Jesus, preparing Him to die. Right in the middle of that, Judas comes on the scene, and do you know what? He's mad. He's angry that the Lord Jesus' feet are getting washed. What's the reason he's angry? He says... *We're wasting our money right now, washing Jesus' feet, you could have given this money to the poor!* Six days later...now Jesus is washing Judas feet. And what has Judas done? Betrayed Him. For what? Thirty pieces of silver.

I mean, I try to get my mind wrapped around what it would be like to wash Judas' feet. You know, I've done foot washing services before over the years, and it's humbling. Someone takes off their shoes, they take off their socks, and their feet are sweaty or nasty or whatever, that's humbling, but to wash someone's feet who betrayed me? I can get so mad in such a hurry. I mean, a few months ago I was in a Zoom meeting and the person on the call just had a disrespectful comment to me. I bit my lip...but at the end of the meeting I wanted was so angry...I didn't want to

wash that person's feet. Someone cuts you off while you're driving...you don't want to wash their feet. If you start thinking through all the people who have disrespected and hurt you, and in that moment, we don't want to wash their feet, we want to twist their ankle.

But what does Jesus do? He doesn't halfway do it, even with Judas. He washes Judas feet with excellence. Let's read John 13:1 again, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." After Peter denies Jesus three times, Peter makes eye contact with Jesus as Jesus is on His way to the cross. When Peter looks at Jesus, Peter weeps. Do you know why? Even after He's denied Jesus, Jesus is loving him to the end. When Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, I believe Jesus is loving him unto the end. That's what we're called to do. We are called to serve other image bearers of God. Sometimes they're going to be like saints and sometimes they're going to be sinful and hurt us, but we're still called to serve them as Jesus has set the example for us.

Now, how do we do that? How do we love people until the end? I think we have to have God's Holy Spirit. If you go over to John 14, the conversation continues from John 13. In John 14:17 Jesus says the Holy Spirit is with you and will be *in* you. The same Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, when Pentecost comes now is not just with us but He is in us. And when the Holy Spirit enters our heart, our hearts are softened, they're changed, and the Holy Spirit opens up eyes to the cross of Jesus Christ, and the grace and mercy and forgiveness we have received through the cross. And that leads into what? That leads into us having the ability, the power, to love people in an unconditional way. That's what makes the bride of Christ so beautiful. When we not only get what Christ has done for us but when the Spirit changes our heart, we start serving and loving people in a Christ-centered way. It won't make sense to the world, yet the church shines when we do it.

This makes me think about Elizabeth and Jim Elliot, missionaries in Ecuador in the 1950's. The people they're trying to reach kill Jim Elliot, yet Elizabeth

Elliot goes back and serves these people, and she sees them come to Christ and continues to minister to them. How does she do that? How does she continue to go back to a group of people that killed her husband? There's only way I think she could do that—it's by the power of God's Holy Spirit being in her heart to continue to love people, and not in a conditional way but unconditional way. Kyle and Mollie Jones are missionaries from here...why do they do that? Why do they abandon everything and go across the world to serve? Because God's Holy Spirit has convicted them to go love and serve people across the world because they love Christ. Christ is the example for them. I think about even our own church. We have unbelievable leadership with Bro. Ricky, with Bro. Kory, with the other people that work them. It's awesome. And part of our leadership is we have a group of deacons. The deacon means to serve, and they serve. These are men who truly are serving this church. Why? Not for fame or popularity, they're doing it because they love this church and they love Christ. I think about when our church comes together and does things like VBS. Think about all the hundreds of people involved, kids and leaders. People are using their natural gifts and their spiritual gifts. You have people cooking, you have security team, you have people chasing kids all around this building, you have people dancing on the stage. All this stuff is going on and no one's looking for fame or attention. Why are we doing it? Because of the unconditional love we receive from Jesus Christ, we want these kids to know who Christ is and we love this church. We could go on and on with different examples. Now yes, the church messes up but when we're truly serving like Jesus by the power of God's Holy Spirit, it's amazing how the church can shine. That's what we want. We want to be living not just at Jesus' example, but knowing Jesus' example by the Holy Spirit guiding and directing our hearts.

But it's still hard to serve. We still get our hands dirty. There's still Judas's and Peters and doubting Thomas's in our life that we gotta deal with. But I think that's all the more reason as we think through that, and think through the third part. The third part is trusting our Father. You see, we want Jesus to be our example. We want to follow Him, and we want to love and serve like He did, and that comes from God's Spirit being in our heart and being empowered by God's Spirit. But then it also means there

are still hard times to occur. And when those hard times occur, it is all the more reason we have to trust in our Father. Now, I was reading a book on prayer and the first chapter uses an example of a Christian is going to go see a Christian counselor, right? And the Christian counselor's not going to focus on their earthly father, earthly mother, or their past. All they're going to do is focus on their relationship they have with the Heavenly Father. So the Christian counselor starts talking to the person like, "Are you Christian?" And the person says, "Yes, I believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. I believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior. I believe that grace is through faith alone." Then the Christian counselor says, "Tell me about your relationship with your heavenly Father. Tell me about how your communication is with Him right now." And he gives like different examples what people would say. "Well, to be honest, I don't have very much time to talk to Him." Or like, "You know, I only really talk to Him when I need something." Or "I have tried talking to Him again and again; He just doesn't move." You know, that's a heart issue. If your heart is not right with your heavenly Father, it's going to be hard for you to serve.

What I'm challenging here is where's your heart right now with your heavenly Father? You might know and understand the gospel and you know your need, but there has to be this foundational peace that you truly trust your Father. Let's go back to this passage again. What I want you to see here is how many times the word Father is used. And we're going to just go back a couple verses in John chapter 12, verses 49–50. Jesus is talking, for, "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has Himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." Jesus is speaking about eternal life. How is He able to speak about eternal life? Because it's coming from His Father. John chapter 13:1–3. Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God..." What's the point? Jesus' hour is



coming. What's Jesus going to have to do? He's going to have to die. He's going to have to take on the sins of the world. But He also knows after that death, He's going to be raised from the dead and He is going back to His Father. There's a trust in as he serves and washes the disciples feet, as he is led to the cross, as he is obedient to the cross, he continues to entrust his will to the Father.

Let's now go to another passage. Let's go to Philippians 2 and read verses 1–11, "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." He humbled Himself by being obedient...who is He obedient to? His Father. Let's continue, "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Jesus is obedient and Father lifts him up, and Jesus lifts up the Father to the glory of God the Father. Jesus loves the Father more than we could possibly imagine. The Father loves Jesus more than we can possibly imagine. The reason we can say Christianity is love, and God is love and He's been doing it for eternity is because God has been loving for eternity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the trinity—the three heads have been actively loving each other with perfection forever. And here we get the example of what this love looks like, that the Son submits to the Father, trust in the Father's will. It leads to His death, but it also leads to His life and exaltation. That applies to you and it applies to me. So as we serve, there are going to be times where we are humbled. There are going to be times where it's hard, but as we serve like Jesus, we are lifted

up and exalted because of what Jesus has done for us. This relationship, the more we get and understand how good God is, the more it just changes everything.

You know, there was a time a few years ago when I was just dry spiritually. I just wasn't feeling it. I was like, man, I want my zeal for the Lord to come back. So I put myself to a test, I'm going to read the Gospel of John and I'm just going to ask myself, is God good? As I read, I'm going to specifically look for every time there's interaction between the Heavenly Father and Christ. About five chapters in, I'm sold; God really is good. In John 5:19–24 (I love these verses), it's talking about this father/son relationship between the Heavenly Father and the Son, and right smack dab in middle it's talking about how good this relationship is. John 5:20 says, "For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him..." Why, why, why? "...so you may marvel." The thought here is God is so good, the relationship is so perfect; do you know what they want? Do you know what He wants? The Father sends the Son to die on the cross for our sins, but you know what we do? We reject the cross. So do you know what God does? Here again, Jesus is the ultimate example of service. He dies on a cross for the disciples who are debating who's the greatest, dies a cross for disciples who deny Him, die on a cross for disciples who can't even pray for Him when He needs them to pray from Him, dies on a cross for disciples when they desert Him, and you know what? We're exactly like those disciples. Each and every single one of us are, and each and every single of us have rejected Christ. So, even though the Father has sent His Son to die on the cross, and even though we continue to reject, God sent His Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, and He penetrates our heart for us to be able to see and understand this. Then once we see and understand it, we can't but marvel how good God is. That's the point. That despite our sin, despite our rebellion against God, God wants us to be adopted into His family. That we also can be sons and daughters of God, where we can hear from our heavenly Father, He is well pleased with us. The result of that love we have experienced from the Father's plan for what the Son has done for us by the Holy Spirit entering our heart, changes our life, in such a way where we cannot be still, we just

have to go serve. Why? Because the love of the cross of Jesus Christ by God's Spirit being in us and by His plan, affects us in such a way we have to go impact people. That's what the example Christ is trying to share with us. That leads into a life change. You see, no matter where you are, when you get the cross of Christ and God's Spirit in you, and you're trusting in your heavenly Father, you can't help but get your hands dirty, and that's where the challenge is this morning. What step are you going to take to go serve some folks?

You know, when I'm analyzing college students, I'm thinking head, heart, hands. I want our students to be in God's Word. I want them to know the Bible, but I just don't want them to be Pharisees. I don't want them just to have a bunch of head knowledge. I want that head knowledge to trickle down to their hearts where it humbles them, and they live lives of holiness and it changes their character. But then, I don't want it to just go their heart, I want it to get to their hands. Alright, they got the knowledge of Christ, their hearts are engaged with Christ, but now I want them to be able to take steps of faith to get those hands dirty. So what does that look like for us? I think it looks like in two ways—there should be in-reach and there should be outreach. In-reach is when you come into this building you should have a servant's heart. Now, there should be a connection and service mentality when you come in here. Ephesians 4, our church is all about Ephesians 4, meaning this—we're about preachers and teachers equipping you with God's Word to be sent out. You should want to come in here to be fed. You should want to come in this building to connect with other brothers and sisters in Christ. You have opportunities on Wednesday night and Sunday morning. But as you connect, there should also be a desire to serve. This is what I believe, and this is what I believe the Bible teaches—God has given each and every single person this room spiritual gifts. You need the body of Christ and the body of Christ needs you. Each and every single week you can impact people in this building. And I think as Kory talked about that organic connection, there can be organic service as well. What I mean by that is, I heard a pastor say this, there's a broken heart in every pew. There is. If you just look around and talk to a few people, I promise you there are some people with some problems that need to be served.

I think about the college semester. One of the blessings I have is at the very beginning of every fall semester when we have a brand new group of college students coming from all over the place who come into this building. And I'm always trying to pick their brain of what's it like when they walk in. Think what it's like when you're 18 or 19 years old, you're away from home, and you're walking to church. Some of them come from a different denomination. I mean, I had never seen someone getting baptized but the first time I came to Hardin I saw somebody getting baptized and I had no idea what was going on. Some new students are used to a church of fifty to a hundred people and they walk in to Hardin there is like a thousand people. Some of them walk in hung over from a party the night before and they're trying not to fall asleep in the middle of the sermon. Some are stressed out with anxiety and depression. They may have fallen in a sexual sin, and even though no one in this building knows it, when they walk in this building they feel that somehow everybody in the building is just staring at them because of what they did. But that doesn't just applies to college students; it applies to adults as well. There are people who come into this building with hurts and pains, and not just first time visitors but people in the congregation. I mean, if you go here long enough, you're going to eventually have a Sunday where you have a problem and need to be served. You can be a situation where the week before everything is great but you went to the doctor and now you have cancer. You walk in, and all of a sudden, the worship is completely different from what it was the week before because you're dealing with this disease. You can put a smile on your face and try to act like everything's fine, but deep down inside you know your home is an absolute mess and your marriage is hanging on by a thread. You could go on and on and on about all these different situations or different problems that people have. Here's my point. We want to come in here in this building, not like customers where we're just want to get fed. We want to get fed, but not like customers; we want to come in like employees...no, not like employees, we want to come in as image bearers of God who've been saved by the grace of God and are ready to go serve God's people. And realizing and understanding each and every single one of us have things going on. Now, I'm not saying you have to so serve the whole church; I

am saying just look around. I promise you that in the circle of where you're sitting at someone has a problem; someone has a need that you can serve. Have those spiritual antennas up. There are also just tons of needs.

Now, I want to give you here a little bit of chance if you want to serve in our church. I looked at the list last night and there are a slew of things that we need help with in all these different ministries. First Fruits Farm right now would take this entire congregation and put you on the farm because they need that many people working on First Fruits Farm. You have the sound team, you have media, you have security, you have the music team, or you have Sunday school. I mean, you have special needs, you have a shut-in ministry, you have the widow ministry; we go on and on and on. There are all these different needs that you can help where God has wired you in such a way to help. This church needs you, and this might be the Sunday that you're not just communing together, you're not just communing to connect with a group of people; you want to find a way to get your hands dirty. You know what Jesus has done for you, your heart is engaged, but you need to take that step of faith, and this might be the Sunday that you really start exploring. It doesn't have to be something big, it maybe just something small, but you want to serve.

Now, we don't want to just serve from an in-reach, but we want to serve from an outreach. What I mean by that is that is you are sent, you are sent to go serve. That can look different for different folks. That might mean that you go serve your neighbor. I think about Trevor Grant and what he's been doing on Wednesday nights in the Hardin community. That means on Wednesday night, instead of being in this building, you go out of this building and go serve folks in the community of Hardin, or the community of Murray or Benton, whatever it might be. I think about a young man who used to be in our ministry. It's really cool what he's doing now. He's in medical school right now and he is on the hospital rotations. He's getting trained to be a doctor, but the church he's a part of now has made him a deacon. One of the responsibilities as a deacon is that he is supposed to serve the people in the hospital. So he gets his training to be a doctor during his shift, but then after his shift is over he goes from future doctor to deacon. He walks around the hospital and any church member who's in

the hospital he'll go pray with them and talk with them. In other words, he serves them. There are all these different ways you can serve. The opportunities you can find to serve are limitless. It's just taking that step, that small step, to go and serve somebody, with a goal to hopefully even share Christ with them.

There are other ways to even getting more practical and more personal. A mission statement I have for my life right now is I want to live out God's calling in my life by prioritizing the roles that God has given me. Do you know what this means for me? If anybody on the face of earth should see me as a servant, do you know who it should be? It should be my wife Brandy. If anybody after that should see me as a servant, do you know who it should be? It should be my four children, Graham, Brax, Hannah, and Titus. If anybody should see me as a servant, it should be those who see me being the college minister of this church. That these students hopefully see I have a servant heart. When I'm on that campus, hopefully one of the things they say is not he's this crazy bald guy running around, but he's got a servant's heart. God has put every single person in the room in positions, whether it be your career, your neighborhood, your family—you have roles to fulfill. And part of that role, whatever God has given you, that whoever you're interacting with, they should see you as a servant, as Christ being your example. See, when we're doing this it's amazing what can happen. We start seeing the power of God move. I really believe this. When we're living like Jesus by the power of God's Holy Spirit, trusting our Father, God moves! Do you know what I believe? The God of the Old Testament, the God of the New Testament is the same God today. The God who parted the Red Sea, the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, can still use you and me, and work through you and me and do miracles. It starts with Him, but it starts with us being willing to serve like Jesus. Now, there are going to be days when we're serving and it's going to be monotonous. But there are going to be certain days as we continue to serve that we're going to see God work in mighty ways that only He can get to glory and honor. That's what we want. We want to be a part of a movement that is supernatural, and it is supernatural because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. And we experience that power and it's so worth it, and it's not just so worth it because we're a part of the God who created

the heavens and the universe. Do you know what also in this passage Jesus says? Later in John chapter 13, verse 17, He talks about it's one thing to know it, but when you do it, you'll be blessed. You'll be blessed!

I think about what I said when I started out this sermon. I said if you want to serve, it's going to be hard—you're going to suffer. When I was giving Scott these points to put on the screen, he said, "Well, that's a real good intro, Chris. That will really encourage the church to serve!" It is hard; I'm telling you, at times you're going to be dealing with some difficult people. Whether it's in the building or out the building, people sin and mess up. But it's so worth it, you're going to be blessed more than you can imagine. You know, when I'm up here preaching I try to really work on staying calm...I'm just hyper. My fourth child, Titus, takes after me. His nickname he has given himself is Hyper. ☺ I've just got energy and it's tough for me to slow down, but when I'm around a college student, the lid sort of comes off a little bit and I can just sort of go crazy, right, even on a Sunday morning. When I'm around them, their energy feeds off me and mine off them, and just to be honest, I don't act like I'm 44 years old, I act like I'm an idiot around them! I remember one day I was having a hard conversation with a student and I was thinking...*man, this stuff's hard!* So I'm dealing with this and dealing with that, thinking about my ministry and what it's like, and I came and sat down at the 10:40 service when all of a sudden, a mob of like five or ten college students surrounds me. They start imitating me and mocking me a little bit, grabbing me, pulling on me, "Ahhh," just playing around back and forth. I remember thinking at that moment that there's no place I'd rather be. I feel like I am called to serve this church, to disciple young 18, 19, and 20 year old men, because I think Jesus wants me to do it and this church wants me to do it. But do you know what? I'm the one who gets the biggest blessing by serving them. I'm telling you, when you truly serve the way the Lord wants you to serve, you're the one who's going to be getting the blessing. It's going to be so worth it. By seeing God's power move in your life, you're going to be blessed in ways that you could not even imagine. And you have this hope, that even on the days when the blessings are not occurring, you're going back to your Father because of what Jesus has done for you, and this Spirit's never ever letting you go!

Now, we got our head, we got our heart, and we got our hands. Where are you this morning? What step of faith do you need to take to begin serving?