No. 30

August 27, 2023

TAKING THE LOW ROAD

John 13:1-17

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago Laurie and I had a trip planned that involved a flight out of LAX. That’s not on my list of favorite things to do, but it was the flight that would work for our schedule. We were going to park our car there so I looked around and found a good deal where we could park the car in a hotel’s underground parking garage for a really good price. The day we were to leave we drove to LA and found the hotel, then parked in the garage. We then asked an employee where the shuttle to the airport was and they told us to go to the front entrance of the hotel and wait there. The shuttle, we were told, would come within 15 minutes. We went to the entrance and waited. We waited quite a while, more than 15 minutes, but no shuttle came. We did notice some unusual activity. Several police cars showed up. The officers got out of their cars and just stood around, which I thought was curious. Then several people with cameras arrived, obviously media people. But there was no sign of the shuttle. Finally we began to get impatient. We needed to get to the airport. There were some bell men out in front of the hotel, so we talked to one, explaining we were waiting for the shuttle and wondered if he knew why it was taking so long. He said, “Oh, it’s already here. It’s parked around the side of the hotel in an alley.” He went on to explain that the Emmy’s award show was taking place that night, and for some reason some celebrity was coming to the hotel. The police were there to provide security for whoever the famous person was. It had been determined that the shuttle might be in the way of the celebrity, so it was sent around to the side of the hotel. All of us peons, the no names, had to schlep our luggage around to the alley where we found the shuttle waiting.

We received the message loud and clear. The famous person, whoever it was, mattered. This was an important person. We were just peons. We all know how the world works. If you are powerful, famous, rich, the world caters to you. If you are none of the above, the world takes no notice of you. You are just an anonymous person among the billions of anonymous people on the planet. You don’t matter much.

No one wants to be an invisible person, a nobody. That can be a problem for us because all our lives most of us pretty much have been just members of the herd. We are not especially significant in the eyes of the world. No one takes any special notice of us when we walk into a restaurant. So how are we to think of ourselves and to see our place in this world? Today we are going to look at a familiar incident from Jesus’ life and learn about how we should see our role in this world and about how it will be possible for us to do that. This is a familiar story. Because of that it can lose its effect on us all too easily. But this story has some powerful and radical implications for us if we will pay attention to it. Let’s look at John 13:1-17.

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

**2**The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, 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.”“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.

EXPOSITION

JESUS DID A STARTLING THING

1. The next 5 chapters of John describe the interaction Jesus had with his followers on the night before he was arrested. Almost a quarter of John’s biography of Jesus is about those few hours. Many years after Jesus had left, this is what John remembered most vividly. These were the moments that had the greatest impact on him. These were Jesus’ final words to his men, crucial truths for them to remember. Clearly these are things we need to pay close attention to.
2. In 13:1 John said, “Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” Some interpreters note that the last phrase of that sentence could be translated “he loved them to the utmost” or “to the maximum.” However, I think this translation is correct. Jesus was about to give a vivid reminder of how much he loved his disciples right up to the final moments of his life.
3. What Jesus does in this incident is more than a little surprising. I think there was something going on that prompted Jesus’ actions. Luke 22:24 says, “A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest.”
4. That had happened on more than one occasion. Jesus was about to culminate his life in an act of inconceivable sacrifice, and in that context his men were bickering about which of them was the greatest!
5. I get that they did not know what was about to happen. Nevertheless, I can’t imagine arguing about who is the greatest. I think if you have to tell someone how great you are, then you are not very great. And telling someone else that you think you’re greater than they are is loaded with hubris and seems guaranteed to create conflict and hostility.
6. It might help us if we could somehow crawl inside those guys’ heads. Remember who they were. They had lived their whole lives knowing they were nobodies who didn’t matter at all. Some were fishermen, for heaven’s sakes. Matthew was a former tax collector who was a somebody, but he was somebody awful. He wasn’t famous, he was notorious, and he was despised.
7. For these men to be second class citizens would have been a big promotion. They were ruled by Romans, who oppressed them and looked down on them. They were led by religious leaders who mostly discounted them and also looked down on them. They were not considered noteworthy by anyone. All their lives they had been nobodies. And then Jesus came along.
8. Jesus had chosen them to be his special group of disciples. Listen to the words in that sentence. They were chosen, they were special. They had never been chosen for anything before and they knew that they weren’t seen as special by anyone except maybe their mothers. As the crowds following Jesus grew larger, as his reputation grew, they were increasingly being recognized by people. Suddenly, they were somebody.
9. They thought that even greater was ahead. To the end of Jesus’ life they were expecting much the same thing that the crowds who shouted “Hosanna” were. They thought Jesus was going to become the king and defeat the Romans through his miraculous power. And they were going to rule with him.
10. But who was going to sit closest to the throne? John and James at one point had their mommy come and ask Jesus if one of her boys could sit on his right and the other on his left when he became king. For the first time in their lives they were important and special. And they liked it. They wanted more. They knew that someone was going to be the secretary of State, someone was going to be the secretary of Defense, but someone was also going to be the secretary of the Interior or the secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Can you tell me the name of the current Secretary of the Interior? I don’t know who it is. They wanted to be even bigger somebodies. So they argued about who ought to have what spot in the administration. What follows was Jesus’ way of telling them they needed a completely new paradigm, a totally new way to think about themselves.
11. Verse 2 informs us that they were having a meal. We’ve seen earlier that it was expected that there would be someone to wash their feet in such a setting. But who was going to do that? Normally that would be a task for the lowest servant. They didn’t have any servants, so who was going to do it? Their response to that question was “not me.”
12. Many years ago when our son, Toby, was in college, Laurie and I went to San Luis Obispo to visit him where he was in school at Cal Poly. He lived in a house he rented with 4 other guys. None of them were overly fastidious. The bathrooms were gross. I won’t describe them because I don’t want to make anyone queasy. In the kitchen it appeared that all those guys belonged to a cult that believed washing dishes was evil. The kitchen was a mess, and I don’t mean a mess hall.
13. I knew one thing for certain. None of them was going to be quick to dive into the mess in the kitchen because they might fear if they washed and put away all those dishes, the other guys would be happy to let them do it. It could easily become their job. Same with the bathrooms.
14. Washing feet was a job for the lowest of servants. The disciples are somebodies for the first time in their lives. They were important men. That job was beneath them. Furthermore, since they’d been jockeying for position, if one of them stepped up to do that job, they figured that would be an admission that he was the least important. And since he was the least important it would be expected that he would do the menial and unpleasant tasks like washing the others’ feet. Needless to say, the idea of washing the other guys’ feet was radioactive and they didn’t want to get anywhere near it.
15. Jesus did the thing that they were all too important to do. He got done on his hands and knees and went around washing the grimy feet of his own disciples.
16. When I was in my college years and my early 20’s I was involved in a ministry that had a lot of retreats and conferences. More than once something I dreaded happened. At the conferences people were often staying in dorms, and a couple of times a stomach bug got loose among the conference attenders. You had lots of people dealing with what we sometimes called the Aztec two step, otherwise known as Locksmith Disease, where you make a bolt for the bathroom door.
17. Imagine being in that situation and volunteering to clean all the toilets. Would you be eager to sign up for that duty? Washing those grimy feet in that day wasn’t exactly like that, but it was kind of in that class. That’s what Jesus chose to do.

1. Peter wasn’t going to allow that. I’m pretty sure they were all feeling awkward and unhappy about what Jesus was doing. They were very uncomfortable with this. Peter voiced what they were all feeling. “No way are you, the Son of God, going to wash my feet.” Jesus said, “If I don’t wash your feet, Peter, then you have no part of me.”
2. Peter responded, “Well if that’s the case, then don’t just wash my feet, Jesus, give me a whole bath.” Good old Peter. His heart was in the right place, even if his foot was often in his mouth. He wanted Jesus to know how much he believed in him and wanted to be a part of what he was doing.
3. Jesus said, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean.” Some people interpret this to mean that when you believe in Jesus you are forgiven, but as you go through life some sins crop up and dirty you up a little, and you need to confess those sins to be completely forgiven.
4. That is not the point at all. We can know that’s not correct because the disciples would have had no way of understanding that’s what he meant. There is no mention of confessing sins at all. In the context that would have been completely out of place. Plus that misses the real issue of sin. It’s much deeper and far more pervasive in our lives than doing a few little things wrong.
5. Jesus was not making a theological statement about how we experience forgiveness. That was not a part of the discussion. He was using an illustration. His point is that the disciples, by virtue of their faith in Jesus, had the bath they needed. In the illustration in that day a person who has had a bath is clean except for his feet. That’s all Jesus was saying. That explained why he was washing their feet. The point was they were clean in his eyes, including Peter.
6. We know this is the point because he then said, “And you are clean, though not every one of you.” Though he didn’t identify who he meant, he was talking about Judas.

JESUS APPLIED THE LESSON TO HIS FOLLOWERS

1. One by one Jesus went around washing the feet of all 12 of his disciples. It would have taken some time to wash 24 feet. I figure it would take him at least a minute to wash each person’s feet. I am sure it would have been a distinctly uncomfortable quarter of an hour or more as he made his way around the room. All of them would have been feeling guilt over letting Jesus do this job. They would have felt totally unworthy of having him, the Messiah, washing their feet! No doubt they would have liked to stop the whole thing, but now there was no way out of it except to let Jesus do what he was determined to do.
2. When he was done, according to verse 12 he said, “Do you understand what I have done for you?” Well, yeah, you washed our feet. True, but he did a lot more than that. He had given them an object lesson in how to live. Then he drove the point home.
3. He said, “You call me Teacher and Lord, and that’s right, because that’s what I am.” He was Lord in a way that even then they likely did not fully understand. Despite the fact that he was indeed the Lord of all, he had served them like the lowliest servant. That is what he had done in his entire life.
4. Then he said, “I have set you an example.” You should wash one another’s feet.” Consider what that would mean in the context of what was going on that evening.
5. Remember what they were arguing about. Who is the greatest? Who should have the most prestigious and powerful positions? Who should be the most celebrated disciple? If they applied what Jesus taught them that argument might have continued, but in a very different way. Each one would be saying to the others, “I think you should be the greatest. You should take the highest position. I should be the lowest man on the totem pole.”

APPLICATION

JESUS CALLS US TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER

1. You are no doubt aware that there are some churches that incorporate a foot washing ceremony as part of their worship services. That has some cool aspects to it, but it also is the kind of thing that religious people tend to do. Jesus gives an example and a command to follow it, and they turn it into a ritual. Do the ceremony and you’re doing what Jesus said you should do, right?
2. Wrong. There’s nothing inherently wrong with the ceremony, but that’s not what Jesus meant at all. What Jesus did that night was an illustration of what his whole life was about. *He didn’t want us to mimic the illustration, he wanted us to live the life.* He wanted us to have hearts that were like his, a heart that beat to give himself up in serving other people.
3. Leslie Newbigin, the late theologian, missionary and author, said, "Jesus has laid aside his life for us all, and the debt which we owe to him is to be discharged by our subjection to our neighbors in loving service. Our neighbor is the appointed agent authorized to receive what we owe the Master."
4. We got a recall notice on our car, a 2015 Nissan Rogue. The Nissan corporation had found a fault that they were taking responsibility to fix. Oh great. Nissan is headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee. I’m supposed to get my car back to the company so they can fix that. You know they don’t expect that. They have authorized Nissan agents all over. They informed me I can take our car to the Nissan dealership, which is their local agent, to have the repairs done for free.
5. Jesus said he has authorized agents all over also. They are human beings, the ones that are all around you. If you are going to serve Jesus he said you can start by serving his authorized agents. They are eager to receive your service. In Ephesians 5 Paul instructed all of Jesus’ followers to be “subject” to one another. I am to submit myself to others and daily do the equivalent of washing their feet as though I am their servant. He said whoever wants to be great must be the slave of all. Our calling is to be foot washers in every relationship.
6. This changes our way of relating to other people. My job with my wife, my children and grandchildren, my friends in the church, my neighbors, the often annoying corporate trolls who seem to think customer service is about saying no and being as unhelpful as possible, and everyone else in the world, is to serve them, to wash their feet. Be the person who takes the low road, who humbles himself or herself and gives in, who takes on the most onerous job and eagerly does whatever is necessary to serve other people.
7. This involves not insisting on having my way, on being right. It involves inconvenience, effort and sacrifice. It requires caring more about the other person than about oneself. Of course, that is exactly what it means to love.
8. In Philippians 2:3 Paul wrote, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.” One translation phrased that, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.” Wait, you’re telling me that the other people are more important than me? So what they want matters, but what I want doesn’t? Why should they be more important than me? Hold on. That’s not what the verse said. It didn’t say they are more important than you. Paul said we should regard them as more important. We should think of them as though they are and choose to serve them. Isn’t that exactly what Jesus did? He’s the ruler of all that exists. No one on this planet is more important than him. But he chose to regard taking care of us at immeasurable cost to himself as what he needed to do rather than looking out for himself.
9. Laurie and I went to a Padre game this week. We don’t enjoy that any more because we know that the Padres will lose and look bad doing it. They lose every time we go. By what happens when we go you would think not only are they the worst team in baseball, but they are the worst team in the history of the game because they lose every single game. Their record if we went to every game would be 0 wins and 162 losses. And they’d play bad, boring baseball in the process. This game was no exception. It was terrible, but it was also unusually aggravating. We went because Toby and Anna gave us tickets. It was a give away night. Everyone attending got a Ha Seung Kim bobble head doll. Toby and Anna couldn’t go but wanted the dolls. So we went. Laurie knew navigating around the ballpark carrying those dolls is cumbersome so she brought a bag to carry them in. That’s where it got really irritating. She knew there are restrictive policies about bringing bags so she brought one that was within guidelines. She thought. When we got to the park the security people refused to let her bring it in. We’d have to take it back to our car or they would confiscate it. This was a bag we had gotten at a hotel in Hawaii and it had a little sentiment attached to it. Laurie pointed out it was an empty bag. How could it be a security threat? They were adamant. Laurie was fuming. I could almost see the steam coming out of her ears. We had to surrender the bag. I got really irked when within minutes as I was waiting for Laurie outside the Ladies room in the park I saw several people with bags almost exactly like ours. They had been allowed to bring them in, but we had not. Later I reflected on our irritating experience. How would we have felt about those fussy security nimrods if we had chosen to metaphorically wash their feet the way Jesus did? I suspect it would completely change our attitude.
10. Shane Claibourne once said "Everybody wants a revolution, but nobody wants to do the dishes. Community is about doing the dishes." To me that resonates. I remember a holiday dinner we had at our house that brought our whole family together for a joyous dinner. We had a special, joyful time of laughter and wonderful food. But eventually the evening ended, everyone went home, and I went into the kitchen. It looked like every dish, every utensil, every pot and every pan we owned had been used that evening, and now they were all there in the kitchen, dirty. They were everywhere. There was no counter space or flat surface not covered by dirty dishes. It looked to me like it was going to take the next month to get all that cleaned up. I didn’t want to do it. Then I remembered reading a study that concluded that what wives thought would contribute to marital harmony was their husbands washing the dishes. Laurie had worked absurdly hard to make that meal happen. The way I could wash her feet was to dive in to that mess and do it joyfully. So I went upstairs and went to bed. Just kidding. I tackled the task.
11. There will be times when the last thing we are going to want to do is to simply give in and serve another person. But I will tell you a powerful truth. If we all took this to heart and lived by it, it would revolutionize our relationships. It would resolve all our conflicts, it would solve all of the marriage problems people have. It would cause others to feel loved, valued and cared for. It would be powerful. Most of all, it would bring glory to the name of Jesus.

But it’s hard to serve. How can we do that?

HUMBLE SERVICE IS GROUNDED IN SECURITY

1. There’s a crucial comment in verses 3-4 that we need to learn from. Those verses have a crucial little word in them that we need to pay attention to because it has huge implications. John wrote, “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.” The little word “so” is the crucial word I referred to. It is pivotal to our understanding and in our ability to put Jesus’ example to work in our lives. There was a connection between Jesus knowing he was from God and the Father had put all things under his control, and his action of proceeding to wash the feet of his followers. The word “so” means his ability to serve was a result of knowing who he was.
2. Have you ever heard of HAFE? Laurie and I have had our habits changed because of HAFE. It is an acronym that means “high altitude flatus expulsion.” That’s right, it’s what it sounds like. Research has shown that when you are at high altitude in an airplane it causes bloating and the release of gas from your intestinal tract. So, Laurie and I take Gas-X when we fly. I don’t want to be that guy on the plane, the one that causes everyone around to say, “Oh, gross, do you smell that?” We have learned a truth, so we do something in light of it. And that’s what Jesus did. There was something he knew, so he was able to willingly do something that was unimaginable to his own followers, and that was to wash those feet.
3. He knew who he was. He knew he was from God, and he knew that the Father had given him power and rule over everything that exists. He is the Lord of all. He had no doubt about that. He was secure in his identity as the Ruler of all. That security enabled him to do something none of his followers wanted any part of. They were afraid if they washed the feet of the others, they all might think they were admitting that they were less important than the others. That was of no consequence to Jesus. He didn’t care about it because he knew who he was. Secure in that he was able to look like the lowliest servant. That was the foundation for his entire life. It was what enabled him to come into this world in the most humble way imaginable, then live a life riddled with opposition and rejection, and finally end up being mocked, scorned and executed as a criminal.
4. I have noticed something about Laurie that I have mentioned before. She and I have different metabolisms. I can go for long periods in a day without eating or drinking anything and it doesn’t affect me much. But Laurie is not like that. She has a faster metabolic system than I do, with the result that when she doesn’t eat or drink in a timely fashion it causes her problems. I can see it in her face. She gets this sort of hollow look. Laurie is remarkable. She is usually full of life and laughter, she is very verbal and fully present. But when her blood sugar gets too low she becomes more quiet, much less her normal cheerful self, less patient, maybe even a tad grumpy if it goes too far. It’s fairly amazing that if she just eats something suddenly normal Laurie reappears. The point here is that it’s hard for her to serve others when her needs have not been met.
5. A key need is the need to be secure in who we are. Jesus was completely secure in his identity, and as a result serving in the lowliest of ways was no threat to him. The same will be true of us. We fear if we serve, others might assume that’s what we should always do. We fear they might dominate us or take advantage of us. When our need for security is met, we won’t fear those things. So what if someone thinks me unimportant? So what if they try to dominate me? So what if they take advantage of me? I know who I am in Christ. I am God’s child, created in his image, loved infinitely and unconditionally by him, valued eternally by him. I know my life is in his hands. His plan is being worked out in my life. So what other people think or do does not matter. Being secure in God’s love and work in our lives, in our identity in Christ, will free us so serving others is never a threat.
6. What makes us secure? We often try to create an image, to see ourselves as successful, intelligent, wise, likeable, to try to feel secure because of how we think others see us. That only makes us ever more insecure and more easily threatened. Security comes when we know that God loves us without condition or limit, when we know we are his children forever, when we know he has a significant role for us to play just as we are, when we know he is working to guide us through life and nothing is going to threaten his plan. Secure in that we can serve as Jesus did.

HUMBLE SERVICE IS MOTIVATED BY MISSION

1. Verse 1 says Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and return to the Father. Jesus was on this planet to carry out a mission. It was a terrifying mission, but one of infinite importance. That mission, to save the lost, to rescue humanity, was his reason for existing. It drove everything he was and did. This act of humble service was a part of fulfilling his mission, so he did it without hesitation. The next day he would face a far more daunting challenge, but he wouldn’t flinch from that either, because it was crucial to his mission.
2. What will give us the motivation and strength to serve others like this, especially when it seems hard, is having a mission that includes that service. If our mission is to become famous, or to get the approval of other people, or to have a comfortable life, we will not be able to follow Jesus’ example. We need a mission that is so big and so important that we will make any sacrifice to fulfill the mission. That mission is to bring glory to God and do his will. This is an eternally significant mission. It is bigger than us. Will we live for his kingdom and his glory, or will we live for ours? If we live for his kingdom, then we will make the sacrifice of serving him by serving others eagerly.
3. When my son, Toby, was in high school, he played and loved football. Often at the end of the day he and I would go out in the street and throw the football around. There was a day when his throws were often off target. He was usually pretty accurate, but this day he was consistently throwing the ball several feet to either side of me. This was a little unusual and I wondered what was happening. I asked him if his arm felt all right. He said it was fine. I told him I asked because he seemed to be off target quite a bit. He said, “Yeah, I was noticing that. I’m not sure why.” I thought about it a bit, then I asked him, “What are you looking at when you throw?” He said, “Uh, I’m not sure.” I said, “I think that might be the problem. You’re not looking at the target. The ball is going to tend to go where you look. Try consciously focusing on me when you throw.” Immediately his throws got better. The same happens to us. When we fail to focus on the target, on our mission, we start to wander. What will enable you to serve, especially when it is hard, is remembering and staying focused on your mission.
4. Years ago when Laurie and I went to visit Michael and Carissa after they moved to Meridian, Mississippi for Michael’s last duty station with the Marines, we flew out of the tiny Meridian airport on our trip home. It was an unforgettable experience because we flew on Silver Airways. There were 17 passengers on our flight to Atlanta where we would connect to a flight home. There were 4 TSA agents to process the 17 passengers, so they were diligent because they had little to do. One found a bottle of perfume Laurie had in her carry on and said she couldn’t take it. But he said she could check the bag through if she wanted. He said he would take it and check it through for her. He needed her ID to do it. So she gave him her ID and he took care of the bag. A problem cropped up when he didn’t get her ID back to her before we boarded the plane. Laurie told the flight attendant about the situation. She said they would make sure to get her ID to her. Everyone was on the plane, but we waited. It was being held up because of Laurie’s ID. The pilot came out of the cockpit for a few moments, then he left the plane. He went into the terminal. After some time he came out boarded the plane, handed Laurie’s ID to the flight attendant who delivered it to Laurie. Then we took off. It was not the job of that pilot to track down the ID of passengers. But he was focused on his mission. His mission was to fly that plane to Atlanta. He would do whatever it took. So he was willing to become an ID retriever if that’s what it took to fulfill his mission.

HUMBLE SERVICE PRODUCES BLESSING

1. Pay attention to the last verse in this section. Jesus said, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” There’s a massive, 10 volume resource called *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. It is an exhaustive and universally respected study of the Greek words in the New Testament. It is helpful to listen to what it says about the word translated “blessed” in that verse. It says to be blessed meant “to have the transcendent happiness of a life beyond care.”
2. Transcendent happiness sounds good to me. Same with a life beyond care. Don’t we all want that? Of course we do. How do we get it? Jesus said we do it by doing what he taught us to do. We get it from being willing to serve others. We don’t get it from power, wealth, approval or fame. We get it from serving.
3. Jesus knew what he was talking about. His life was one long journey of self sacrifice and service. We think of him as the “man of sorrows” but he talked more about his joy. He said he wanted us to have his joy in us. One of the hardest things for us believe is what Jesus said is true. If you want freedom and joy, then be secure in your identity in the Father, focus on your mission of living for his kingdom and start serving people as a way of serving Jesus.