



DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS SERIES

SUNDAY 16TH JULY 2023

Topic: Discipleship Essential "A Life of Service"

John 13:1-7

Speaker: Ps. Sam Toms

- We like our Rights
- Jesus had every right but didn't use them
- Jesus answered the disciples in service
- Jesus challenged the 'rights' within HIS kingdom
- The Doormat challenge
- The Welcome Mat opportunity
- The Significance of 'SO' – (v4) the link between identity in Christ and service



THE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE 2023

GROWING & GOING





The kingdom of God coming into our midst presents some interesting challenges. Whilst there is some overlap between the world's values and the Biblical values of God's kingdom, there are also areas of contention and conflict. Our culture is eager to promote the individual rights of each person. Whilst this is a wonderful thing in many respects, when taken too far, it impedes on the rights of others or the 'rights' of the collective or whole. My 'right' to free speech can be used to impede on the 'rights' of the group to operate in peace and comfort.

When we look at the person of Jesus, we are forced to reconcile with the radical upside-down nature of the rights and values he lived out.

Q. Discuss as a group what rights Jesus had as God on earth? Which of these rights did he live out and use while he was on earth?

The reality is that Jesus, who had every right and privilege, seldom, if ever, used his rights. He becomes completely dependent on the Godhead to sustain, empower and work through him. Jesus came not just to be the superhero saviour but also to model a life of dependence on God. This is where the challenge lies. That is the injustice and brokenness of our world that we trust and hold on to God to reign in our lives. The easiest thing to do is to write a list of rules that need to be followed to live out the Christian life. But this is exactly what Jesus DIDN'T do. The Bible introduces and encourages us into the person of God, that we are dependent on the Spirit of God in all things. Now the Spirit of God will be in harmony with the written word of God but will guide us into the situations and storms of life.

Q. Do you think Jesus became a Door Mat for humanity?



THE DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE 2023

GROWING & GOING





This question invokes some big questions. I want the answer to be no. But when you reflect on the life of Jesus, he laid down His life for us in a very practical way. He didn't defend himself. He didn't try to protect himself. It would be very hard to argue that Jesus didn't operate as a doormat in some respects, as much as the concept of this grates against the beauty and splendour that Jesus is owed.

Q. Just because Jesus allowed himself to be treated this way, does that mean that I need to be a doormat to humanity?

It is important to remind ourselves that Abuse is NOT ok. We are not suggesting this, and this needs to be clearly communicated. But we need to wrestle with what we allow and what we stand up for.

Read Acts 25.

In this chapter, we see that Paul used his Roman citizenship to stop physical abuse and to See Caesar. What a great picture where the Gospel is promoted in an incredible way.

The Tension we see in scripture is that, at times, there is a need to stand against evil, and at times there is a need to 'turn the other cheek'.

Q. How do we navigate this Tension?

The reality is that we deny our 'rights' to choose. That we become so 'in step' with the spirit of God that His Spirit leads and guides us. At times, we need to allow the injustices against my pride to go. At times we need to stand against the harassment.

Q. Does your daily life reflect an intimacy with the Spirit of God that allows you to hear and respond to His Spirit leading?