

Made For Mission
Why Am I On Mission?
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. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 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. After that, he poured water into a bowl and began to wash his disciple’s feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

For the last several weeks we have been diving into this series called “Made For Mission.” In this series we have learned that we are all called, we have taught about **“what our mission is,”** we have even discussed **“what our message is,”** and lastly I spoke on **“who is my mission?”** Today we are going to answer the question **“why we are on mission?”** An army is only deployed when the mission is made clear. The **“why”** is the most important factor in any mission because it determines how we act on the mission.

I don’t know about you, but for me it’s easy to turn my mission on and off but Jesus was always on mission. **He knew why he was on mission and it was stronger than any other reasons or excuses that could have gotten him off track.**

So the question is, how does He do this? This may have been the most selfless act he has done up until this point. How do you stay focused and passionate about the mission even when you don’t feel like it, or when you’re stressed, or have some serious anger towards the people you’re trying to reach out to?

Think about the scripture we just read. The Scripture stated that Jesus was about to die and he finds himself eating at a meal knowing that one of his closest friends are about to betray him. The scripture also says that Jesus knew that **“The Father had put all things under his power.”** Can I just say that I would be a terrible savior! If I knew all power had been given to me I would take that power for a ride in this very moment. I would out Judas as a traitor and liar. I would run him out of

that dinner with wild bears in hot pursuit! I would not have allowed myself to be crucified because I would have taken over everything! Herod's house would be my house and Herod would be my footstool. I certainly would not be thinking about washing 12 sets of dirty, filthy, stinky feet.

See Jesus was able to stay on mission because he knew the "Why" of his mission. Jesus knew his identity. **The foundation of Jesus' mission flowed from his identity.** When we stop seeing the mission as an event we have to attend or an obligation we committed to and start seeing the mission as who we are, then all of a sudden, we light up when we think about yet, we dream about it because it is who we are! But don't get me wrong, identity can be a tricky thing. Lots of things shape how we see ourselves and how we think other people see us.

Let me ask you a question this morning, what if your identity was truly found in God? This was definitely true for Jesus and The Father.

Jesus knew who he was. He knew whose it was he was. He knew what he was here for. He knew where he was going. And he knew where the power came from. How would that change your life?

When our identity is wrapped up in God, then we begin to understand that he is infinitely bigger than the circumstances that surround us. So Jesus's identity was secure but that doesn't answer the question of why that led him to wash feet. My identity is in Christ but that has never inspired me to stop and wash Pastor Jonnies feet, nor will it ever. Let's continue on with the story in verses **6-11** *"He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, Lord, are you going to wash my feet? Jesus replied, you do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand. 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! 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 everyone of you. For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean."*

"if I don't do this you have no part with me." One of the simplest descriptions of our relationship with Jesus is supposed to be like this...Pour Out...Pour In...Pour Out.

We begin by pouring out ourselves to God. Then after we pour out to God, he then pours back into us. Then from his overflow we then go pour ourselves out into others. Right after this scene Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane where he (pours out) his heart to God. The passage says that God sends an angel to strengthen him (pour in). Finally, Jesus goes from there to give his life on the cross to forgive the sins of all mankind. (Ultimate pour out).

To the depth that I pour out to God is the depth that God pours into me. To the depths that God pours into me is the depth that I am able to pour into others.

As you live on mission it's huge that your **"Why"** is secure. We're called to humbly and happily put others needs before our own. Jesus set the standard pretty high. He was God and he washed grimy feet and told us to follow his example. This next week pour out all of your stuff to Jesus and then allow him to pour himself back into you.

Romans 10:15 "And how can any preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Let me warn you, you might not get it right. Peter and his clean feet falls asleep in the garden of Gethsemane an hour later when he was supposed to be praying. Hours later he then denies even knowing Jesus and runs off with guilt. So what does Jesus do a few days later? Jesus meets him on a beach where it all began and what did they do? Peter pours out to Jesus, Jesus pours into Peter, Peter then pours out to 3000 people on the day of Pentecost and the rest is history.

The foundation of Peter's mission flowed from his identity in Christ and the same must be true for you and me as well.