

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 1 / 22 Feb

Connect to Christ

John 13:1

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

As human beings we always make connections. We connect so much with lot of people and the world has various technological means to connect us globally. We meet people virtually through Facebook, instagram, snap chat, face time, WhatsApp, telegram and so on. We share our ideas, our thoughts, our displeasure, our likes and dislikes and what not. However, some of us have failed to connect with Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith. He is eagerly waiting for us. It is ironic that we connect with anybody who wouldn't know or care for us but we find it hard to connect with Christ who cares for us and knows us inside out.

Jesus willingly connected with simpletons and called them His disciples. His connection was based on love. He loved them so much that He related with them in very personal ways. Jesus' love is the reflection of the love of the Father in His life. Jesus left all authority with God the Father and His equality to rescue mankind. Father loved the world so much that He was willing to give away His only son as a compensating sacrifice. Son Jesus loved the Father so much that it was expressed in His obedience to stoop down to die on the cross. The simple reason is 'love.' Jesus loved the disciples to the very end.

During this season of Lent let us Connect to Christ. For some it is a new connection but for others it is a reconnection. Whatever be it, we need to connect to Christ.

How do I connect to Jesus? Consciously set aside time to be alone with Jesus. Read His word, spend time thanking Him for all what you have and behold.

What do I do? Read and Reread John 13:1.

Remember! Jesus knew that His time was short and He had to leave this world. You know you too are bound by time. Jesus loved His disciples and He decided to serve them and set an example for them to follow. You do have people whom you love. Pray for them and set an example for them to follow. Paul said – follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus.

Happy Lent! Celebrate Jesus!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 2 / Feb 23

Stay Strong in your Connection to Christ

John 13:2

It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Any connections get distorted easily. If you have telephone or internet connections your line might have disturbances if the cable is snapped or with incremental weather. You identify the problem and try your best to rectify it, if it is beyond your control then you take professional help. Somehow you will ensure to get it working. The same happens with our connections to the Lord Jesus. We can easily get side-tracked and could possibly snap away.

Judas Iscariot was a choice of Jesus to be His disciple. However, Judas did not stay strong in his relationship with Jesus his Master. He had other things in mind that took the focus off from Jesus. He let the devil in his heart to work. He succumbed to the devil's scheme and lost his Godly purpose. Though he was with Jesus he did not have the heart of Jesus. He gave room for the devil. He didn't even realize that he was caught deeply. His desire for the thirty silver coins reigned supreme. He probably thought of it as easy money for helping the authorities identify Jesus. It was no hard work or brain work. When Judas realized he was wrong it was too late. He was the loser and none.

How do I stay strong in Jesus? Remember anything that keeps you off from Jesus is a devil's bait. It could be your loved one, your career, your status, your business, your position, your possession and what not.

What do I do? Make sure you are conscious of Jesus all the time in all of what you do. If you feel you are overdoing something that pushes you away from Jesus, stop what you are doing and set aside time to connect with God. If you don't find peace in what you are doing, quit. Remember to hold on strong to Jesus – His purposes for your life is way better than what you have thought for yourself.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 3 / Feb 24

Connection to Christ has Privileges

John 13:3

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

It is interesting to note that when you get hold of new network connection either to your mobile or your home internet services, they all come with certain privileges. They are based on the scheme that you select. Sometimes these privileges are limited for a time. However, the best part is they all come with conditions. Your connections to the worldly things are conditional.

It is not so with your connection to Jesus the Lord. You are entitled to privileges which Jesus enjoyed from His Father. Jesus willingly offers it to you. Father God had given all authority to Jesus over everything that was created. Jesus was well aware that He came from God and He was returning to God. His origin and destiny was God. It is the same for us. We have come from the mind of God, He knew us even before we were formed in our mother's womb the number of days we would live are written in His book until we return to the tomb. In the interim time He has given us the authority to bring hope, joy, healing, deliverance in Jesus name to the others who do not know Him.

How do I enjoy the privilege? I first need to know that I am from God and I will return to God. With that as a foundation I need to become stewards of what is entrusted to me and I should not lord it over others but in humility serve people with divine authority.

What do I do? I must serve willingly. The authority in Jesus enables us to see miracles, healings and deliverance. I must initiate and not wait until someone tells me to do it. I need to volunteer. I must make it a mandate not to miss any opportunity to serve God in any capacity. It should begin at your home helping your family do household chores or your church serving in as needed.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 4 / Feb 25

Christ Connection leads to Humble Serving

John 13:4

So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist,

We are going to shift gears. Once the connections are established we can do what we desire. Probably we can download contents relevant for us or upload some original information we think might benefit the larger community. Whatever be it connection enables us to achieve the desired end. So it is, when we have our connections intact with Jesus our Lord.

Jesus, master of the banquet got up from the head position of the table took of His robe, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Masters do not remove the robe since it is the symbol for power and authority. Jesus removed it and draped Himself with the towel signifying a servant at disposal of his master. Jesus switched places. He got down to serving His students. Unusual for a master teacher. Probably the disciples froze in shock. Something unexpected had happened. The disciples may have wondered what it could lead to however, they never had the courage to question Jesus.

Connecting to Christ should make us humble like our master. We are called to serve others if we love Jesus.

How do I serve humbly? We need to give up our personal self and our sense of achievements. We need to disrobe ourselves of the many potentials and be willing to stay low. We need to take the place of an ignorant learner. Literally be like a servant at the disposal of an inconsiderate master.

What do I do? Be like John the Baptist who declared that – Jesus must increase and that he should decrease. A simple proposition for humility. Such humbleness is likely only when we have right connections with Jesus. An intimate link with Him.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 5 / Feb 27

True Serving is Trying

John 13:5

and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

Establishing connections involves a price to be paid. If you have a network it doesn't work free for you, you need to be paying for it monthly, quarterly or even annually. So, also was Jesus' connections to His disciples. He wanted to let them know that relationships are trying and it is a personal choice to sustain and that it is a costly affair.

After disrobing His seamless garment and wrapping Himself with the towel Jesus took a basin of water and began washing the feet of the disciples. Washing, I feel is not a difficult task, but to wipe the feet with the towel that was around His waist was quite a thing. He had to wash and wipe the feet of 12 men. Every time He washed and wiped the feet, the towel was sure to get wet. It definitely took away the dirt of the feet but got stuck to the towel. Jesus was tying it around His waist. By the time He was finished with the 12th man, the towel would have become completely wet and the dirt was on Jesus' body. He kind of got Himself into a mess. This was the mark of true serving.

How can I truly serve? Jesus symbolically represented what true serving was. I don't know if the disciples understood it then but I am sure we can understand it better now after reading this particular text. Your connection to Christ can cost you dearly. If you have a strong connection with Christ you will have a solid conviction to serve Him.

What do I do? Serve like Christ Jesus served. He got messed up with the dirty wet towel. When you serve people it is likely that you get hurt, you will be misunderstood, you will be mocked, you will be belittled, you will be betrayed and what not. You will go through some ordeals unimagined. Don't give up serving since even when you are hurt you have brought healing to somebody. Your conscious action reveals Jesus in you.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 6 / Feb 28

Right Serving Rocks a Few

John 13:6

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Our network connections gets us to a world beyond our demographic limitations and sometimes about life perspectives that is not even thought or dreamt of. If a simple network could unfold a global world then imagine our connections to Christ, it can unravel His mysteries for our great living.

I don't really know which of the disciples got his feet washed first. I can't even imagine what it would have been to that person then. Nevertheless, Jesus' turn to wash the feet of Simon Peter neared and when He had come to him; Peter questioned Jesus if he was going to wash his feet as well. The real intention of the question cannot be inferred but he must have reacted that way probably because he didn't want his master to do a slave's job. He knew he was not worth and he doesn't deserve. He seemed a bit upset about it. He was in a state of shock. Often such rare reactions are likely as we start serving Jesus in some capacity.

How can I serve right? Our genuine connection to Christ compels us to serve. This serving results because of our love for Jesus. It is the one best way to reciprocate our love for Jesus. As we begin serving, some people are worked up knowing who we are and what our profile is. It might send them shock waves. Our sincere serving allows them to see our passion for Jesus.

What do I do? Find ways and means to serve people. Everyone needs Jesus who gives them hope in a hopeless world. Watch for ways to serve. Initiate it and don't wait until someone prompts you or asks you. You have people all around who need to be served. Ask God to show you. What you can possibly do cannot be done by someone. Begin your serving with your people before going to the unknown. You are special and that's how God made you and prefers to use you.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 7 / March 1

Serving in Christ is a Celebration

John 13:7

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

It is surprising to note that some of our connections on social media have brought people and families that were lost. I was stunned when I found that my great great grand dad was a Methodist minister when the British ruled India. If the social network has the power to bring around lost people you can imagine our connection to the resurrected savior. It can bring the whole wide world of lost souls to God.

Jesus didn't ignore the question of Peter. He took time to tell him that the implication of His action was meant for the future. Peter being an impulsive person it was probably difficult for him to have comprehended Jesus' response. But one thing was sure, he was unhappy about Jesus' action. On the contrast Jesus seemed to enjoy what He did. He wasn't grumpy or His action was forced upon Him by anyone. It was His choice of celebration. A new way to celebrate the Passover. Jesus was modeling something that was very strange.

How can I celebrate serving? A joyous serving opens up a new world for people to see Jesus. A simple act of kindness fills us with so much happiness. As we continue serving it becomes a celebration.

What do I do? Serve without any expectation. Expectations ruin the world for us. Don't expect to see results as you serve. Your only job is to find ways to serve Jesus. If you are convinced about what you want to do to reflect Jesus, go on with your strength. God honors it at the right time.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 8 / March 2

Sensible Serving involve Sensations

John 13:8

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

The reason for social media to have become impending is because of its influence on human senses. It is treat for the desperate eyes, a sweet sense for the ears, and a challenge for the thought process. It triggers the person who is associated to it. It even becomes addictive sometimes. An active indulgence in social media platform drives a person to evoke his senses.

Jesus connection to His disciples aroused their senses. Peter was against the idea of Jesus stooping low to serve Him. He literally protested, if he had a chance he would have walked away from Jesus. But he could not. He refused. He felt embarrassed about his own worthlessness. Jesus refuted his refusal and declared to him that if he did not go through this serving of Jesus he would no more belong to Him. Jesus meant what He said and He wanted Peter to be aware of the implication of His noble action.

How do I serve sensibly? People around us have enormous needs. Our service to them at their point of need turns the world upside down for them. Sensible serving at an unexpected time arouses mixed emotions and people could possibly be overwhelmed with gratitude.

What do I do? Our love to Christ is expressed in our service to the needy around. Be diligent to look for needs of people. Live out the good news of Jesus our Lord than being loud mouthed and nothing in action. When something is done to lift up people, let us be watchful not to brag about. Some people might be expressive while the others may not. Sensations vary with people. Remember to be sensible in your service, it will draw them to connect to Jesus.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 9 / March 3

Christ-like Serving is Exciting

John 13:9

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Some people live in excitement with the virtual world. The many likes and shares for their posts tickles them and gets them elated in their spirits. Whoever had liked their post or commented on it may not have known them personally neither do they too. Nevertheless, they seem excited. My concern is why hasn't that happened with our connection to Jesus? He knows us well. If only we get closer to Him, it would bring in a whole new world to us.

Jesus plainly said to Peter he would have nothing to do with Him if he had not washed his feet. It troubled him so much. Immediately Peter in excitement said not only to wash his feet but also his hands and head as well. He was caught up with too much of an emotion that he did not know what he was responding back to Jesus. Peter did not understand the implication of Jesus' action. He was going to do the same and something similar later during his ministry days. Serving satisfies, Christ-like serving is both satisfying and exciting.

How can serving be exciting? We live a world full of self-serving people. They love to be served and they never want to serve anyone that includes even their own family members. If that is the case how can I become exciting in my service?

What do I do? Connect to Jesus. Read the Bible to know all about Him. Examine everything you read, if you do not understand ask someone who can help you. Remember, He loved you even when you did not know Him. He thought of you even before you were born. He is willing to serve you until you are grown enough to serve Him. When you have insights about Jesus and His excellent plans for your life, you will begin serving and your serving Him and His people will become exciting.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 10 / March 4

Scheming yet Served

John 13:10

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you."

Any connection to the worldly perspective has its own implication. It could be both good and bad. It depends on how well you have known it and associated with it. Some have had indiscriminate connections that have ruined their life. It is not so when you connect with Jesus. His connection lets you live an abundant life. However, you can mess yourself up if you have poor connections and does not let His value system into your life.

Peter's little impulsive behavior of him wanting Jesus to wash his hands and head opened up an opportunity for Jesus to share how one can connect to Jesus and still be lost. It is like a cable connected to power socket but had not fit in well. Such a connection cannot carry the power to the device attached to it. The very purpose of the cable is lost. It is just there fixed up wasting the space. Jesus had to declare that all the 12 men were not good. Someone who was found by Jesus was still lost. It was because of their personal choice.

How do I serve even when I am schemed? True serving is not trouble-free. Even if it is serving it can cause worries that cannot even be imagined. Schemers are all around but if we are convinced to serve we must carry on despite all odds.

What do I do? Don't be too cautious when serving, when you are prompted to serve because of the compelling love of Jesus. Just go ahead with it. It doesn't matter if you are schemed. Serving pleases the Lord Jesus. It opens up as a way to reflect Jesus to others. The schemers will be caught by their own scheme someday. Do not rejoice about it. Be sure that your connection to Christ becomes stronger with all these scheming.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 11 / March 6

Christ Cares even for the Careless

John 13:11

For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

One needs to be watchful about the connections on social media. Your wrong connections can sometimes derail you. It can destroy your passion and ethos for life and drag you into a rut of frustrated surviving. The meaning and scope of life can be lost.

Jesus was well aware of the 12 men He chose. He did not make a mistake of selecting the wrong person. He was right in His choices. Nevertheless, Jesus did not force these men into anything. He knew them all well and all of them had passion for the messiah and to be in His service, but He let them make personal choices. One of them got wrecked and Jesus was well aware but didn't deny him being served. He made it a point that he was attended to without any discrimination. Jesus was so magnanimous that He did not reveal who it was. This is my opinion probably Jesus said one of them was unclean so it could at least evoke a response that would snap him off the wrong connection.

How can I care for the careless? You need to focus on serving because you made a choice of doing so, you wanted to reciprocate your love for Jesus by being in His service. If that is so, then you should be driven by love and nothing else.

What do I do? You continue caring even if they care less that you serving them. Some think they deserve being served. Often they assume too much about themselves, than they ought to. If we love Jesus truly we do not have to be deterred. We serve not to see results, though it is part of the process. We serve because we were served by Jesus. We are who we are now because of His atoning sacrifice. We owe Him our service for His people.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 12 / March 7

Understanding Serving!

John 13:12

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?"

One of the key aspects is to have insight into why we are connected to what we are connected. Some connect to the social network for entertainment, some for educational purpose, few for professional reasons and lot many to make a big business out of it. It is their source of livelihood. What has that got to do with our connection to Jesus?

Jesus switched to His rightful role. He put on His robe after removing the dirty towel from His waist. He sat with them and questioned them again. This time He wanted to check on them if they understood what He did for them. I am pretty sure that none of the disciples understood what Jesus did. It was something uncommon, never heard of or even witnessed ever before. Slaves washed the feet of the masters – master washing the feet of the slaves was strange. That was too weird, incomprehensible. But they knew they were treated in style, they knew they were unworthy of such an honorable service for them. Jesus did it since He obeyed His Father and wanted to show them the Father's love. Our connection to Jesus mandates us to follow Him literally.

How can I understand serving? Time and again it is a question that we need to ask ourselves. Do I serve because I will be appreciated or will I gain a name and road to fame? If these questions are answered in the light of Jesus our Lord, it will make sense of our serving.

What do I do? I serve because it is my bound duty. Undeserved yet I was served when Jesus hung for my sake on the cross. He took my shame and pain. Whatever service I do, it can never equal what the Lord did for me. I need to get myself to serve if I prefer to be grateful to God.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 13 / March 8

Serving Affirms Identity!

John 13:13

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.

Having heard about serving for about 12 days now, I am sure you must have an idea of what it possibly is and how the connection to Christ makes a whole lot of sense. Serving like Christ affirms our identity with Him. One of the key aspect of life is establishing our identity. Human beings struggle their way out at all ages to establish themselves and those who are unable to make it end up depressed and feel that they have failed in life.

The disciples fondly called Jesus to be their teacher and Jesus affirmed it. The goal of the teacher is to transcend their values in their student and inspire them to be one. Jesus wanted His disciples to imitate Him as He consciously imitated His Father in every aspect of life. Jesus portrayed love, justice and right living which were virtues of the Father. The disciples were raw since they were unschooled men except for Matthew and Judas Iscariot who happened to better off than the others. Since one was a tax collector the other an aristocrat, that is what his name Iscariot meant. Jesus wanted them to be identified as servants of God and not anything else.

How do I affirm my identity? You are not identified by your family name or by your profession though they initially gave you who and what you represent. However, you need to establish your identity in Jesus.

What do I do? You need to be aware that your identity comes from the truth the God made you in His image and likeness, therefore whatever you do represents God. Once you become aware of that truth. Nothing bothers you and your serving Christ becomes the pivotal work of your life. Examine if you are happy to represent Jesus who is eternal or you prefer representing your profession which is temporal. The day your retire none bother you. Nobody even recognizes or recalls your good work or even remember them. Your serving makes sense when you identify in Jesus.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 14 / March 9

Identified Imitates

John 13:14

And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.

We live at a time with enormous media influence. Especially when someone who seems to be on the niche of popularity, we buy into their ideas without even contesting to it. We assume whatever they proclaim could probably be the truth. But sad to say these so-called celebrities do everything for their monetary benefit and nothing they do concerns them. They are least bothered about any devastating effect on people or the society.

Taking a look at Jesus. He wanted the disciples to emulate and follow His footsteps. He declared to them that they have to wash each other's feet. It wasn't going to be an easy task. The disciples grew up with the fact that they were better than the gentiles or the pagan worshippers. They have been taught that they were special people far better than others. Their religious leaders portrayed and practiced it. Jesus was diametrically opposite of what they have seen and heard. There was a sharp contrast and now Jesus wanted them to do the same.

How do I imitate Christ? We have not seen Him as the disciples did. But we have His written word given to us, therefore we need to practice what we read in the scriptures. It is not difficult. Our practice can begin only when we begin reading the scriptures. Let us become serious about spending time reading the Bible.

What do I do? Read and reread the Bible and take efforts to do what it says. It suits any generation any circumstance or any issues of life. To identify ourselves with Jesus we need to know Him very personally than knowing about Him. Many in the world know about Him but they do not know Him. Our imitating begins when we know Him well. It is possible when we consciously do what His teachings tell us to.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 15 / March 10

Being gets you to Doing!

John 13:15

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

Under the influence, you can try to deny it and call it a lie, we are under the influence, under the influence of somebody all of the time. A famous lyric penned by Cliff Richards. Whether we like it or not we are under the influence of somebody. The question to examine is – who is that somebody? Chris Brown penned a song under the influence in 2019 without using the words in the title of the song, it was a popular sensual song. Watch out! Your connections can influence you.

Jesus taught His disciples about the Kingdom of God and whenever needed He showed them what to do and how to do. He role-modeled for them. He did not teach them anything that He did not practice. Jesus was influenced by His Father and He in turn influenced the disciples. You cannot do anything without being observed into it. You need to be convinced about something before doing. You become who you associate yourself with. Who is your companion and what is your source of influence? Disciples did not have anyone to whom they could boldly ask, however Jesus found these 12 men and they were happy to watch and learn.

How can I do like Jesus did? You can never do anything without being passionate about. Whatever you intend on doing you need to be excited and be all out to do it. If not nothing can be done.

What do I do? What have I imbibed myself with? If I need to be a doctor, then I need to have the desire to learn all about diseases and every aspect associated to it. Over and above that I need to have love for patients than love for money. Love for money could possibly make me wealthy but love for patients can change lives to become healthy. So is serving Jesus before doing anything for Jesus we need to be like Jesus willing to love people, stoop low and be prepared to get messed up despite our personal agendas. It would mean pleasing Jesus and nothing else.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 16 / March 11

Serving is a Calling

John 13:16

I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message.

It is interesting to note that the internet connections we have at our end is resourced from a different center which has plenty to provide for everyone connected to the same network. So is our connection to Christ since He represents the Father who is the source of all life. Jesus wanted His disciples to be well aware of this fact.

When Jesus declared – I tell you the truth, He meant what He intended. He wanted the disciples to be mindful that He was not greater than the Father though He had equality with Him. Jesus was with them on a mission given to Him by the Father. His only work was to accomplish what the Father had deputed Him. The disciples' connection to Jesus does not make them superior in any sense but it does give them the privilege to utilize the authority to set people free. It was meant for them to serve people and not for bossing over them. It was a calling – a higher calling to reflect the Godhead through their life and service.

How do I know I am called to serve? It is rather simple, if you take the first step to do something for Jesus and you find so much joy and satisfaction despite appreciations, there you are! However, the first step is pivotal.

What do I do? Don't deny an opportunity to do something for Jesus. Be it trivial or complex find ways to do something for Jesus. Remember when you do what is entrusted for you to do – do your best nothing less. Do it with joy. Don't compromise on the quality. Don't look for people's recognition. If your serving is genuine you will never give up on serving nor will you look for credit. You will enjoy serving people and honor God through it.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 17 / March 13

Right Knowing Right Leading

John 13:17

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Right connections gets you on the right direction. Maps in the mobile devices aid in locating unknown places, such an act is possible because of the network connection. It is so true with our connection to Jesus, if we are connected to Him the directions of our life though unknown will be known and His guidance can help us reach the destiny.

Jesus after completing the task of washing the disciples' feet and responding to their questions declared that they would be blessed if they do as He did for them. Is Jesus asking them to wash the feet of the people to whom they would share the good news? No! Not at all. I don't know what it meant for the disciples then. Since they only had one occasion of going out and sharing about the Kingdom of GOD. They haven't become full-fledged in serving Jesus. They are yet to get started. But before that Jesus wanted them to be aware that they were called to be servants and not masters. He wanted them to realize their calling. It was a blessing for them. Jesus wanted them to know right so they can lead right.

How do I lead right? It is fascinating to note that though Jesus called us to be servants He wanted us to lead. Doesn't it look oxymoronic? Of course! Yes! He wants us to be servant-leaders.

What do I do? Check! Often to see if your connection is right with Christ. I am sure you would certainly be aware. When you know it is not right – stop leading and set your connection right with Jesus by being alone with Him, fasting and praying. This season of Lent is a nice occasion to do so. God has called you to be a blessing and sure enough to bless you too. Therefore, to lead right be right with Christ the Lord.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 18 / March 14

GOD Knows Your Unknown!

John 13:18

"I am not saying these things to all of you; I know the ones I have chosen. But this fulfills the Scripture that says, 'The one who eats my food has turned against me.'

Human connection or technological connection all of it needs to exercise some amount of caution. These connections can either destroy or devalue or drain our energy and make us vulnerable.

Jesus declared to the disciples if they did what Jesus did they would be blessed. However, He moved on from there with His thoughts and began to openly confess that one of them was going to betray Him. He even said He knew them all since He chose them. Nevertheless, scripture should be fulfilled and Jesus quoted Psalms 41:9 "Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me." From His statement one can understand the intense agony of betrayal. Truth is that the human heart is so badly deceiving that it doesn't hesitate to do anything against anyone failing to think before it could get to destructive work. Thoughtless and badly corrupted.

How does God know? It is so sad that when we get to any destructive work, we think none can understand our hidden intentions – maybe that is partly true, people may not understand since they have not had the slightest doubt about our sly behavior but the news is God knows even before we could think anything in our heart. He reminds us about our thoughts and actions but we silence the inner voice. Beware that God knows our unknown.

What do I do? I need to force myself consciously to get rid of anything and everything that could possibly displease God. The best is to THINK before acting. We need to remind ourselves about our intentions – why do I get to do what I intend to do? Is it beneficial to the person intended? Will God be honored with my action? Check out! You will be safe.

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 19 / March 15

Revelation enhances Belief!

John 13:19

I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I AM the Messiah.

Network connections can reveal a whole lot of things, but what is worth and not worth has to be gauged by the user. However, it is not so with the connection that we have with Jesus. It reveals a whole new truth about Him and the more we get closer to Him we begin to enjoy the new revelations through Him and from Him.

For the 12 men whatever Jesus did and spoke I guess did not make full sense to them. It looked as if they knew something but it also looked as if everything was rather strange as Jesus kept talking to them about the revelation that He was the Messiah. Jesus pointed to them about the betrayer but it was not known to any of the disciples. Jesus told them plainly when they knew who it was they would truly acknowledge without doubt that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus foretold what was to happen to Him shortly. The disciples weren't fully convinced that Jesus was the Messiah but they knew He was way different from any of the respected religious leaders of their time. Jesus literally was with them. He lived among them and taught them with authority. He told them to do what He did.

How do I have revelation? It is not about God appearing in your hall way or your room with big bright lights that can mesmerize you. It is all about God giving His insight in your everyday Bible reading and your everyday life event. All you need to do is watch for God to reveal.

What do I do? Read and study the Bible with expectations for a revelation about God and His nature not about new ideologies or theologies. Think about that one word which stuck out while you read the Bible. It can reveal who God is for your life. Keep looking for God's wonder and His power in every little thing you encounter. His revelation can build your belief!

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!

Lenten Devotions 2023

Day – 20 / March 16

Serving must be Welcoming!

John 13:20

I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me.”

It is amusing to note that with just one network connection we can connect as many people as we want when they come to our home, if they ask for the connection. So also is our connection with the Lord Jesus, our whole duty is to consciously connect people to Jesus whoever encounters us.

Jesus brightened the disciples when He said that it was truthful that when people welcome them they would welcome Jesus into their homes. In simple terms the disciples were personification of Jesus. It was a little too much for them. They may not have not thought about it that way. But Jesus affirmed it. He also confirmed to them that they were welcoming the Father – the God of the universe. I wonder if the disciples ever understood their power and privilege. Even now it is a little hard for us to understand when we have read the written word of God and known who we are. Then we can imagine the plight of the disciples then, I am sure they must have been both excited and shocked at the same time. Jesus was honoring them with the truth that they were representations of the triune God.

How do I become welcoming in my service? If I am excited about who I represent then I can very well become welcoming. It is a realization about who we reflect. Often we enjoy sharing about our lineage and honor that our family invokes in the society. Our identity helps us to become welcoming which in turn helps us to be welcomed well.

What do I do? Remember whether you like it or not you are representing your GOD. The way you portray yourself and the way you treat people gives a reflection of your God. If you are loving and kind your God is loving and kind too. There is a saying that goes – we are the only Jesus that some people get to see! Are we aware of the implication that we can make on others?

Happy Lent. Celebrate Jesus! Amen!