

The Jesus Way

The Jesus Way: The Way of the Towel

February 29th & March 1st

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Series Overview

Our church is coming together this Lent to practice the Jesus way daily. Each week, we'll be learning a new element of the way of Jesus together during each weekend service and we'll be setting aside time, both collectively and as individuals, to respond and to dive deeper into who Jesus is and who we are in him. You can sign up at ncc.re/TheWay to receive a short guide each Monday through Saturday containing spiritual practices and devotional readings centered around the Jesus Way.

Series Question

What struck you about the way of Jesus this week? What does it look like to practice that?

Sermon Overview

As we explore The Jesus Way, today's passage leads us to Jesus turning the social structure of the day upside down in the way he leads. Jesus lays down his position and instead picks up a towel. It wasn't a singular commendation of service or an isolated call to humility...it was the combination of both. We'll spend our time today unpacking this beautiful story in the form of five values: humility, identity, filling of the Spirit, obedience, and love. The way of the towel.

Sermon-Specific Questions

In a city where power and position are everything, what does it mean to lay down your position? Who do you need to serve to turn upside-down cultural norms?

How do you see yourself? How do others see you? How does God see you?

Pastor Joel said, "Prayer isn't to understand what we want, but for us to understand what God wants." What is the content of your prayers? Have you masked selfishness in a layer of prayers?

Have you ever had someone love or serve you in a way that revealed God to you? What was that experience like?

Practical Application:

- Engage in spiritual practices and devotional readings each day through subscribing to the daily Jesus Way devotionals: ncc.re/TheWay
- Listen to the song [Sanctuary](#). Let it be your prayer to God this week.
- Spend time in prayer asking God how he sees you. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of your life where you are finding your identity outside of God.
- Pray about how you might serve your community. Whether that's showing up and creatively serving someone in your neighborhood, serving as a [small group leader](#), or serving [locally or globally](#), do so knowing confidently your identity in God.