



# Small Group Discussion

## **Jesus' Counter-Cultural Life-Style** **October 1-2, 2011**

### **Discussion Starter:**

*Vern started with some examples of how Jesus' and our culture honors status:*

- 1) Seating at special events
- 2) Clothes that communicate group or wealth
- 3) Symbols – jewelry, cars, neighborhoods
- 4) Occupations – “What do you do?”
- 5) Titles – revealing occupation, position, degree...

*How can these symbols be helpful, how can they be harmful a person or community?*

### **Read: Matthew 20:25-28**

*In the context of these symbols of honor and status, does the call to serve negate these symbols?*

“You call me teacher and lord, and you are right, because that is what I am...” These titles can be helpful in a community or an organization, but Jesus used these positions to serve, rather than to be served (**Mark 10:45**)

*What positions or symbols of status do you have and how can you turn them to opportunities to serve the needs of others. Use the categories below to stimulate this conversation... Add your own to fit your Small Group.*

- Parent
- Business owner
- Employer or Manager
- Coach
- Teacher
- Harvest Church
- Neighbor
- Employee

### **READ: John 13:1-11**

Jesus spends the last evening with His disciples communicating the thing that would want them to remember and that must mark His legacy. John says in 13:1 that this lesson marked his love for them. He had served them with His life and would with His death, and it must be transferrable.

*Who should have been washing feet?*

*How was Jesus' feet-washing counter-cultural to His disciples?*

# Small Group Discussion

*Why do you think Peter made such a big deal of Jesus washing his feet at all, then insisting that Jesus wash his whole body?*

*Why do you think we balk at the idea of using our position as opportunities to serve?*

Perhaps Peter was revolted by Jesus taking the role of a servant (Peter's role).  
Do we think that service is below us?

Those most likely to serve are those most settled with their position (identity).  
Positions and symbols of status are often props to replace an insecurity in who we are.

**READ: John 13:3** *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.*

Vern pointed out the three issues that John says were clear in Jesus' mind before He served:

**Group Leaders – You can go into these as deeply as would help your group, or just review them and follow up with questions at the end.**

**Power** – What you have

- 2 Peter 1:3-4 – His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness. (to live counter-culturally)
- Col. 1:29/11 – energy that works so powerfully in you...strengthened with all power.
- 2 Cor. 13:4 – by God's power we live to serve
- Phil. 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Power!

**Prestige** – where you came from

- Psalm 139 – wonderfully created (you are no accident).
- 1 John 5 – everyone who believes in Jesus is born of God and everyone born of God overcomes the world (countercultural).
- Gal. 3:26 – You are all sons of God

**Position** – where you are going

- Heaven...
- Eph. 2:19 – citizen of heaven (an alien on the earth)

# Small Group Discussion

*How do the symbols of status attempt to replace the absence of **Power, Prestige** or **Position**?*

*What does God's Power provide in a daily, tangible way? **Colossians 1:11-14** If you don't experience that power, what would cause that?*

*Based on God's value of you (Psalm 139), why do we hold a lower view of ourselves?*

*If we are destined for heaven, what is the worse that can happen to us?*

**Compassion Weekend – October 15-16**