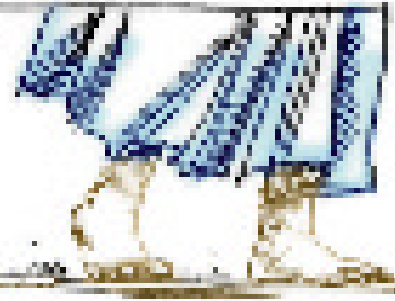


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Lesson 5 / Page 1

Loving Our Lord

God is omnipresent. At every moment we are surrounded by the presence of the living God! Isn't that amazing? We not only have God living in us who is love, who is sovereign, who is supreme, and who is powerful, He also never ever leaves us!

1. Once again, we cannot comprehend what that means. Let God's Word speak to you about His presence as you write out the central truths found in the following verses.

a. What was one of the last things Jesus said as He left in Matthew 28:20? _____

b. What does Hebrews 13:5 say? _____

c. What can contain God according to 1 Kings 8:27? _____

d. Psalm 139 is probably the most famous passage in Scripture about the omnipresence of God. Read verses 7-12. What is the truth about God's presence? _____

2. The meaning of the word *presence* in this context is "face." The concept is that of looking at a person eye-to-eye. So when the psalmist asks in Psalm 139:7, "where can I flee from your presence?" What picture comes to your mind? _____

3. The apostle Paul staked his life on the reliability of God's character. He suffered greatly for being a disciple of Jesus Christ, but he knew based on *fact*, not *feeling*, that God was ever-present with him. Read his personal experience from Romans 8:35-39. What impresses you in his words? _____

What are you going through that you need to be reminded of God's presence? Take a few moments, and meditate on the fact that God is all around you, In fact, He is inside of you. He has not forsaken you for a moment. What seems dark to you is light to Him. He sees the way, and He will guide you in it (see Psalm 48:14). Take some time to praise Him for His omnipresence.

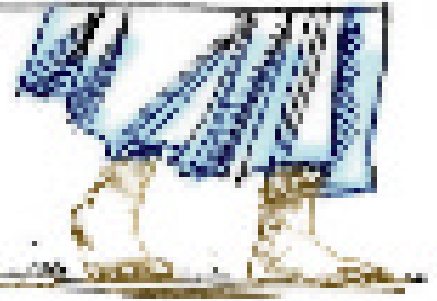
Learning His Word

The power of God's Spirit rescues us from the kingdom of darkness and brings us into the Kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13). We now have a King to serve. How do you feel about that?

1. What light does God's Word shed on our King in Colossians 1:15-17? _____

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Lesson 5 / Page 2

2. What does Romans 10:9 say? _____

- a. What is the definition of Lord? _____

3. Jesus didn't come to earth, live, and die to be our Savior only; He came to establish His kingdom on earth. This is not a kingdom built on earthly soil but one formed in the soil of our hearts. In this royal kingdom, we as God's children not only love Him for being our Savior, but we also serve Him because He is our King and our Lord. What does Jesus say about this in Matthew 7:21? _____

- a. He reiterates this same point in John 8. What fact does he state in John 8:31? _____

4. Jesus made a way for us to belong to His death, the cross, and the resurrection from the grave. He provided an example of servanthood while He walked on this earth. His standards become our standards as we emulate our King. What were Jesus' standards according to the following verses?
 - a. Mark 10:43-44 _____

 - b. Matthew 20:28 _____

5. Jesus did not water down His standards in order to attract disciples. He told it straight. Think about the fact that He is not asking us to do anything He Himself wouldn't do and hasn't been doing for all of eternity. In Luke 12 Jesus taught an interesting lesson to His disciples. Read slowly Luke 12:35-40.
 - a. What instruction does Jesus give His disciples? _____

 - b. Read verse 37 again. What is the Master going to do for His servants if He finds them serving when He returns? _____

 - c. What warning does He give in verse 40? _____

 - d. How can we be sure we are ready for His return according to this passage? _____

6. There is only one time in the Gospels where Jesus specifically states to follow His example. Read John 13:1-17. Describe the scene: _____

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Lesson 5 / Page 3

- a. What was the example that Jesus set? _____

- b. What principle does he teach in verse 16? _____

- c. What fact does he reveal in verse 17? _____

7. In lesson four we studied the power of God. He is the true King. He establishes kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. He is all-powerful, supreme, and sovereign. In the New Testament He is personified as the servant of all. How does this contradict the way our culture defines and views positions of power? _____

8. Think about the fact that Judas, Jesus' betrayer, was among the twelve apostles when He washed their feet. What does this tell you about our servant-king? _____

- a. Read John 13:3 again. What fact is pointed out, and why do you think it was made? _____

- b. What question does Jesus ask in verse 12? _____

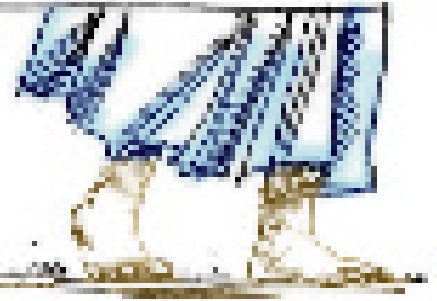
9. In just a few hours from this time, Jesus would be dying on the cross demonstrating the *full extent of His love* (see John 13:1). At this same gathering, Jesus gave His disciples the new command to "love one another as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34). Before He gave the command, He demonstrated it. What lesson do you learn from Jesus in this? _____

- a. Think about dirty, crusty feet on the bodies of men who walked often, bathed little, and were basically homeless. This was a job left for the lowliest of servants. Jesus instructs us to follow His example. He asks us the same question he asked His disciples then...*do you understand what I have done for you?* How does Jesus answer that question in verse 15? _____

- b. In Acts 20:35 Paul quotes Jesus saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In what ways have you found that to be true in your life? _____

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Lesson 5 / Page 4

10. The prince of this world, our enemy Satan, wants us to believe just the opposite of what Jesus taught and demonstrated. Remember, in John chapter eight Jesus told us that the devil's native language is lies. What lies do you see our culture buying into that is in direct opposition to what Jesus teaches? Can you think of any examples? _____

a. Can you identify any of these lies from your own experience? _____

11. What does Jesus say in John 10:10? _____

a. So, according to Jesus, what is the abundant life? _____

b. Why do we so often miss out on this promise? _____

Living His Way

According to Jesus, living for ourselves leads to a life of emptiness or unfulfillment. Living to serve others out of love for our King leads to a blessed life.

1. What holds you back from wanting to serve others? _____

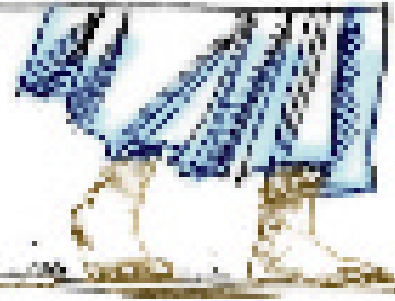
2. How do you feel about Jesus putting on an apron (see Luke 12:37) and serving you? _____

3. What adjustments do you need to make in your attitude or lifestyle to make sure you are ready for your Master to return? _____

4. Is there someone's feet you would refuse to wash? Will you begin to open your heart to the possibility that God may want you to grow in this area? _____

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Lesson 5 / Page 5

5. Think back to Jesus' words about the cost of discipleship (Luke 14/ lesson 1). What new insight do you have on that invitation? _____

6. Can you think of a specific way in which you believe God may want you to serve someone in your life? What will you choose to do to make it happen? _____

As you end this lesson, take a few more moments to meditate on your King. Isn't He amazing? What do you want to say to Him in response to Him showing you the *full extent of His love*?

Core Belief

Another core belief of a follower of Christ is that God is a personal God. What have you learned in your study so far that proves that point? _____

Summary Statement:

In one sentence, summarize what you want to remember from this lesson.

Memory verse:

Matthew 20:27-28. Write it out in the space provided.
