



"People of the Towel" | Chad Bruegman | 3.24.18

LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

With Easter just days away, share with the group some of your favorite Easter traditions and memories.

SHARE

As we set sail into the new year, we all have hopes and dreams for how this year is going to be different than the last. Some of us start this year apprehensive of what is to come since last year was full of difficulty and trouble, while others are optimistic and driven to make the most of what's next. What do you think God thinks of your plans, aspirations and resolutions? What do you think His hopes and plans are for your life?

At Red Rocks Church, each year we seriously pray that God would give us a very specific verse which would encourage every person towards living a more full, rich and surrendered life to God; a timely word that would spark a fire and ignite the body of Christ to live to its fullest potential.

The apostle Paul challenged and encouraged the church in Galatia with this, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

Red Rocks Church, we need to stand firm and not allow ourselves to go back to what once enslaved us. Jesus set us free to live in freedom with him. The boundaries God has put in our lives through God's word is for the sake of our freedom. Though it seems counter-intuitive, God puts boundaries in our lives to keep us free. He is not trying to hold something back from us, but wants to give us abundant life here in the present!

We all desire freedom and we all need it. God promises freedom and wants all of us to experience it in and through Him. Freedom from addiction. Freedom from selfishness. Freedom from fear. Freedom from anxiety. Freedom from comparison. But it will take courage to trust God at his word and in the leading of our lives. It will take self-discipline and accountability to take on that which wants to enslave us. It will take a willingness to trust God who perfectly provides all we need to live a holy life through him.

We can live free through Christ who set us free!

This weekend Chad preached about finding freedom in serving others.

Read John 13:1-17.

Jesus had a "quiet confidence" that was unseen and unheard of anywhere, at any time in history. Jesus knew whose He was and who He was. He was His Father's son, joyfully sent to redeem and rescue the world. Jesus also understood where He had come from and where He was going--sent down from heaven's glory to walk with humanity on earth. This is where His confidence resided. His calling was not to be served but to serve all the way to a death on the cross. And He did this with glorious delight.

Jesus didn't use His supreme rank or authority to lord over. He went low, contradicting the world's standards and writing a new narrative. Scripture makes it clear in verses 12-16 what Jesus was gladly doing as He knelt down to wash the disciples feet. He used His last few hours on Earth to proclaim that acts of love and the position of humility was an example to follow. That the disciples should do for others what He had just done for them.

Jesus delighted in serving. He gladly went low and just as He did, we need to step down from our places of privilege to engage in servant-like humility, lifting others up as Christ did for us.

It says in v.17 “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” The world and our human nature believes happiness comes from being served. It feels good to sit back and have others do for you, but joy doesn’t come from being served. We receive Joy by grace, then we are invited to fully serve in the ways Jesus served. We are invited to humility.

Those who gladly serve, Jesus says, are the kind of people who are qualified to represent Him. If we come to the knowledge of who God is, how high and majestic He is, and what an honor it is to be called to represent Him as we are led down to serve with Him, we will be filled with gladness.

Have you ever thought of freedom as an expression of serving? Considering what you’ve learned in this teaching and LG weekly, how is your mindset shifting?

Has anyone ever served you unexpectedly and it was an incredible blessing? Share with the group what that experience was and how it made you feel.

GROW

Read 1 Peter 2:16-17.

As Chad mentioned, freedom isn’t fully experienced until you’ve made the leap from having your feet washed to washing others feet. When you’ve progressed from taker to giver; consumer to consumed with serving people. Freedom is best expressed when you’ve settled confidently into who you are and are now able to give your life to helping others.

Theologian and scholar Warren Wiersbe writes this observation of 1 Peter 2:

“Yes, we are free in Christ; but we must never use our freedom for ourselves. We must always use it for others.”

Your life is a gift and God desires for you to share it. To take on others problems and look to the interest of others (Philippians 2:1-11). Jesus used his authority to serve others and in the

humility He showed on this earth, God was glorified. You, also, are being called to humility and serving others so that God might be glorified in your love for others.

Jesus knew whose he was, who he was, where he came from, and where he was going, all of which gave him confidence to walk in humility. Out of the four, which might you struggle with the most in embracing and how might you grow in that area (e.g. “who he was” might look like doing an identity bible study or “where he came from” might mean going through counseling to reconcile past hurts).

MOVE

Later in the evening, after Jesus had washed the disciples feet, he continued his ministry and proclaimed something very important.

Read John 13:34.

How did Jesus love? He had just given an example at dinner by washing the disciples feet. If you have any doubt that it was an example of love, verse 15 clarifies, “For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

Jesus is calling all people to have this same kind of love.

- A love that initiates when others sit back.
- A love that humbles you to face what may seem unlovely.
- A love that serves a position underneath you.
- A love that acts in the knowledge of another’s impure motives or betrayal.
- A love that acts as an agent of grace, restoring dignity to others.

Among a group of men who quarreled over greatness, Jesus set the example of service instead of strife.

How does this calling to serve fit into your current roles and lifestyle? How might you merge both (i.e. how can you serve in the workplace or as a neighbor).

Who is one person in your world you can serve and what is one thing you are going to do this week to serve them?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. Ask God for freedom and faith to have courage to run through whatever storm may be ahead! If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

TO GO

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" - Martin Luther King Jr.