

- **This week we mark one of the most important national occasions known as Anzac Day. I want us to take a minute and reflect on what the soldiers offered. Like soldiers who had a mission, Christ also had a mission, what did He offer into this space?**

- SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2023
- PARTNERING IN THE MISSION
- JOHN 13 NIV.
- How can we partner in this mission?





- God has always partnered with his people in order to fulfill his mission and vision, in genesis chapter 1, we see God partnering with Adam and Eve; *Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (Genesis 1:26 NIV)*

- In exodus God partnered with Moses where he said that; *“I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians.... 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”* (Exodus 3:7-10)



- Apostle John began his Book by describing to his audience who Jesus was, (John chapter 1:1, 14.), and throughout the book, John presents the mission & work of Christ;
- 1) “I am the bread of life.” (*John 6:35, 41, 48, 51*) As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life.

2)“I am the light of the world.” (*John 8:12*)

To a world lost in darkness, Christ offers Himself as a guide.

3)“I am the door of the sheep.” (*John 10:7,9*)

Jesus protects His followers as shepherds protect their flocks from predators.

4) “I am the resurrection and the life.” (John 11:25) Death is not the final word for those in Christ.

5) “I am the good shepherd.” (John 10:11, 14) Jesus is committed to caring and watching over those who are His



6) “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”  
(*John 14:6*) Jesus is the source of all truth  
and knowledge about God.

7) “I am the true vine.” (*John 15:1, 5*) By  
attaching ourselves to Christ, we enable His  
life to flow in and through us. Then we  
cannot help but bear fruit that will honor the  
Father.



- In Chapter 13. John presents Jesus inviting his disciples to partner in his mission as servants / slaves.
- **How do we partner in this mission of servanthood?**

# John 13:1

- It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end



- 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 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.

**1) We can partner in this mission if we know our identity, Jesus knew his identity.**  
Verse 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.’



a) People who are struggling with this mission have trouble with their identity.

b) Jesus never doubted where he came from and where he was going.

c) Soldiers will tell you that identity is very important in the mission.

d) Jesus said: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (*John 10:28-30*) *our commitment.*



**2) We can partner in this mission, when we find our security in God, Jesus found his security in God. *Verses 4 & 5.***

‘So, he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.’

a) Washing peoples' feet may not be practical now in many cultures, but I want to imagine of how low this can present you.

b) If you were serving in the army this would be the lowest rank, washing soldiers' feet after the battle.



c) When we find our security in Christ, our service level does not change our rank.

d) I am not sure whether we will choose where we serve in the Kingdom of God.

**3) To partner in this mission, you need to understand the mission, Jesus understood the mission. (*Verses. 12 & 13*)**

**‘When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.’**



# Do we understand His mission?

Jesus was prepared to serve everyone, even the one who would ultimately betray him, by giving of himself sacrificially and with love. In washing his disciples' feet, he did not diminish but rather enhanced his position and influence as their teacher.

## **Conclusion:**

Jesus' mission was to be the suffering servant of God. The Gospels tell how time and again Jesus had to correct His followers' perception of who He was as a messiah. The five thousand people He fed wanted Him to be a popular Messiah who would meet their physical desires.



- Others like James and John wanted him to be a political Messiah who would set up an earthly kingdom.
- Simon the Zealot and His friends wanted Jesus to be a military messiah who would throw off the yoke of Roman oppression. Many of us still have these kinds of wishes and expectations attached to our faith in Jesus.

- In his book *‘Jesus on Leadership’* Gene Wilkes says; ‘today many of us want Jesus to feed our hungers and fulfill our wishes, we want Him to heal our diseases and fix our marriages. We join the five thousand who wanted to make him king because he gave them lunch. Those who follow a popular messiah are soon disappointed when he asks something in return for their allegiance.’



- What about you and I , which mission are you chasing?
- Your role may not appear significant, but God looks at your role as a partnership. We are co heirs with Christ in this Kingdom, your service to the various groups is not in vain.