

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Dare - Part 4 Ready

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Introduction

God's nature is caring and Jesus demonstrated a profound sense of timing, authority and identity in being 'care ready'. Created in His image, we each have the natural ability to be caring, but at times we can take a step back in our care for others. In the Gospel of John we read of Jesus' readiness to care, even in the face of betrayal and His own impending death on the cross. The act of washing feet was customarily done by the lowest servant in the host household. Let's explore what made Jesus 'care ready' and consider how we can follow His example.

Read

John 12:23-24 and John 13:1-5.

Discuss

1. Jesus lived with a sense of timing. Although He knew of the incredible suffering He was about to endure and the impact this would have on His disciples, He remained ready to care for them. Have you ever been spontaneously prompted to show care to someone, even a stranger? Did you take the opportunity to care or miss the opportunity?
2. Read Galatians 6:9-10. What does the passage say about being prepared to show kindness? Read John 13:2. Is there any reason to withhold care from someone?
3. Jesus lived in awareness that He had been given all authority by His Father in heaven. Being secure in this authority, He exercised it in service and sacrifice. As disciples of Jesus, our authority is expressed in the same way – commonly known as servant leadership. How might we exercise service and sacrifice with this understanding?

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4. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Luke 4:18-20. What authority have we been given by Jesus? How can we exercise this in service and sacrifice?
5. Jesus lived with certainty of His identity, knowing He came from God the Father and was going back to be with Him. Why is it so important to know who we are in Christ when providing help and care to others? How does our spiritual identity affect the way we care for others?
6. Read Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139:13. What impact does it have on us when we understand that we are completely known by God and cared for by Him? How does being secure in God's love help us to be care ready?

Respond

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late" – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

God has given each of us a sense of timing, authority and identity to care for others as an extension of His love towards a hurting world. We are called to be care ready and respond promptly to the opportunities He brings our way. What is one current opportunity where you can demonstrate practical care? Share it with the group and commit it to God in prayer, asking for the wisdom to show care in this situation.