



## LEADER Discussion Questions



Week of 5/7/23

**We want to remind you that discussion questions will not be written over the summer. We'll finish up the series in Daniel the week of May 28<sup>th</sup> and will then break until the fall series.**

**Text:** Jeremiah 29:1-9, John 13:1-20, and Micah 6:6-8

**Icebreaker:** What comes to your mind when you think about the topics of justice and mercy?

1. Read the passage from Jeremiah. How would you describe the attitude and actions that the exiles from Judah are supposed to have toward Babylon?

**They are to seek its welfare, knowing that the welfare of the city is woven together with their own welfare. They should settle in and engage in the life of the city and continue to grow in family life. It's an attitude that trusts in God's sovereignty over all circumstances, places, and times. It also demonstrates God's purpose to love and bless (i.e. "welfare") those who do not yet know him.**

*Application:* What do you think this same attitude looks like in our day in our own cities of Boulder, Erie, Thornton, and the surrounding areas? What kind of actions can we participate in to "seek the welfare" of our communities?

2. Read the verses from John 13. What stands out to you about Jesus's actions?

**This is open-ended, so there are a lot of different possible responses.**

*Application:* What connection do you think there is between loving each other in this way "inside" the church and loving others well outside the church in our communities and around the world? Why?

**These verses are primarily about love for each other in the community of faith; however, a community that loves and serves each other is well-positioned or equipped to extend love and service to those outside the community. The love we receive from each other at Calvary should "spill over" into love for those in our neighborhoods, schools, offices, etc.**

3. From John 13, what does Jesus's example teach us about the kind of attitude and actions required to serve others well? As you answer, consider that Jesus washed Judas's feet as well.

**Like the previous question, this one is also open-ended. Jesus's example is one of insane humility and love. The King of the Universe is washing the nasty feet of his subordinates! It blows the mind to think about what's happening here...and then add in the fact that Jesus is giving this same treatment to the man who is about to betray him.**

*Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.*

Serving is much easier when we like the people we're serving. It's another thing, though, if you knew the person you are serving is actively working against you, even to the point of plotting your (apparent) downfall.

*Application:* What do you think it could mean for us to follow Jesus's example (v. 15) with those who are vulnerable and needy in our surrounding communities?

**4.** Read Micah 6:6-8. How would you summarize the two types of actions presented between verses 6-7 and verse 8? In other words, what truly pleases God according to this passage?

The contrast here should be clear. Verses 6-7 list various options that all give the appearance of devotion and seek to buy God's favor. Verse 8, though, is a call to follow the example God has set through his own actions toward us and others. God is pleased by justice; kindness, (or "steadfast love" or "mercy"—it's a word loaded with meaning that's difficult to translate into a single English word); and humility. These are attributes and actions that God desires from and for his people.

*Application:* Where do you see a lack of biblical justice and mercy in our local communities? Do you think the church could help bring justice and mercy to those situations? How?

**5.** What kind of justice and mercy-related efforts have you been a part of in the past, whether at Calvary or through other organizations? Describe the experience you had and what the outcome was.

Finally, pray together for our local communities and those who greatly need justice and mercy. Pray that Calvary would be a God-glorifying witness to the gospel in these places and to these people.