

International Conversation Café

Is Faith Relevant to My Life?

Human Need: Significance

All of us need to know that we are loved and accepted by others. And all of us need to know that in some ways we are unique from others and significant. We need to know that we are special and important, that our life has unique meaning and purpose.

People strive to meet this need in all sorts of ways, some constructive and some destructive.

Name some ways you see people meet this need in their life, both in a destructive and constructive way.

The Bible teaches that each person was created by God and as such, has significance to God. King David records these thoughts in Psalm 139.

You created the deepest parts of my being.

You put me together inside my mother's body.

How you made me is amazing and wonderful.

I praise you for that.

What you have done is wonderful.

I know that very well.

None of my bones was hidden from you

when you made me inside my mother's body.

That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth.

When you were putting me together there,

your eyes saw my body even before it was formed.

You planned how many days I would live.

You wrote down the number of them in your book

before I had lived through even one of them.

God, your thoughts about me are priceless.

What is the main thought of this poem?

How does the poet feel about God's design and creation of him?

Our feeling of significance sometimes comes because we are noticed by someone important. In this example, God notices people because he created them and loves them. Does this change your attitude toward yourself or God?

Our world tells us that to be significant we need to be smarter, more talented, hardworking, successful, popular, and more attractive than others around us. Jesus' followers thought the same thing. Again, and again, they argued about who was the greatest among them. Jesus taught that greatness doesn't come from being better than others or having power over people. He taught that greatness and significance come from serving others.

Just before Jesus died, he demonstrated the attitude of serving he wanted his followers to imitate. Keep in mind, washing feet was a form of hospitality given to guests. It was the job of the lowest servant of the household, never the head of the household.

Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. ⁴So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

¹²When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. ¹⁴I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶What I'm about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. ¹⁷Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:4-17

Tell the story in your own words.

What is the passage saying about Jesus?

What is the passage saying about those who follow Jesus?

How do you think serving other people brings significance to our own lives?

What story do you think the painting is telling?



JESUS MAFA. Jesus washes his disciples feet. from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=2018021334950828&code=act&RC=48299&Row=8>

Fill in the blank:

God brings significance to my life because.....