

Celebration of Discipline 9: SERVICE

1. **REMEMBERING** Many authors have presented the four stages of skill development (cf. James C. Hunter, *The Servant*). Name four skills that would illustrate each of the four stages for you. In other words, where do you feel oblivious, aware, activated, and in the zone?

Stage 1: Unconscious and unskilled (OBLIVIOUS)

Stage 2: Conscious and unskilled (AWARE)

Stage 3: Conscious and skilled (ACTIVATED)

Stage 4: Unconscious and skilled (THE ZONE)

2. **REFLECTING** In which stages do you feel *least* and *most* motivated?

3. **DISCOVERING** Read John 13:12-17 below and answer the questions that follow.

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. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- What do you imagine the disciples felt when they watched this demonstration and heard these words from their Master?
 - *From* what stage and *into* what stage do you think Jesus was calling his followers?
 - Understanding the custom of the day, which of Jesus’ words would have made the disciples most uncomfortable?
4. **CONNECTING** What’s holding you back in moving from one stage to the next in an area of serving?
5. **RESPONDING** What specific steps will you take in the coming week to move from where you *are* to where would you *like to be*?

We live in a culture fascinated with stars and celebrities. We are exhorted to stand out from the crowd, to have others admire and envy us, to make a name for ourselves. But this admiration, which is really self-admiration, is one that crowds out the possibility of love, for love places the beloved foremost in life, it sees us make sacrifices for the happiness of the beloved, sacrifices that dent ambition and stunt careers, sacrifices that say there are others more important than ourselves.

- Chris Hedges, *Finding Moses on the Freeway*