



## SERVANTHOOD

### **Jesus teaches us that the way up is to go down.**

*Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." "What is your request?" he asked. They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left... When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:35-45 NLT*

- Jesus summarizes his entire life and mission with two important verbs: serve and give. God measures greatness, impact, and significance differently than we do.
- *You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know Plato or Aristotle. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity. You don't have to know theory of thermodynamics in physics. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. Martin Luther King*

### **ATTITUDE: Servanthood starts in head and heart before it reaches the hands.**

*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Philippians 2:3-5 NLT.*

- Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking of ourselves less.
- How are you doing at forgetting yourself these days? Some possible next step's:
  - ⇒ Pay attention to your desire for admiration, recognition or appreciation. Considering meditating on Matthew 6:1-4.
  - ⇒ Be open to serve anyone you meet. Look for small, mundane tasks that no one wants to do, and do them.
  - ⇒ Practice secrecy – serve others, meet needs, be generous without anyone knowing.

## **AVAILABILITY: this one is kind of self-explanatory.**

- Being available to serve may mean giving up right to control my schedule and allowing God to interrupt whenever He needs to.
- If I am genuinely a servant, I do not always get to pick and choose where, when, and who I will serve. It is often a ministry of the mundane.
- Are available to God? Possible next steps in increasing our availability:
  - ⇒ Step back and look at calendar. Overloaded? Delete some things.
  - ⇒ Ask God at start of each day, "Who do you want me to serve today?"

## **ATTENTIVENESS: servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others.**

- Attentiveness doesn't stop at awareness or good intentions. Genuine servants pay attention so that when they see a need, they get personally involved in meeting it.
- "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can" (John Wesley).
- How is your attentiveness to needs around you? Some possible next steps:
  - ⇒ Ask God to help you see people way that he sees people.
  - ⇒ Slow down and notice/listen to people in your life, especially the people no one else notices.
  - ⇒ Love is in the details. Love remembers. Birthday? Give a gift to lift spirits?

## **When we love and serve others, we love and serve Christ.**

- It is a wonderful thing to raise our hands in worship on a Sunday morning as a way of expressing love to Jesus. Those same hands must be extended outward to love others. This is the pathway to greatness.
- If heaven keeps a museum, I don't think it will be filled with grand or astounding mementos of Christianity's long history. I think it will be a small, quiet room filled with ordinary things...