

Becoming Servant Minded

Jesus wanted us to be servants:

Matthew:20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

Matthew:20:27: And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Mathew:23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mark:10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

The word *minister* is the Greek word *diakonos* (Strong's #1249) (to run on errands, an attendant, a waiter at a table or in other menial duties). Since the translators chose to use the word *minister* instead of *servant* in Matthew 20:26, it has resulted in some imagining that to be a preacher is more noble than doing menial tasks. That is unfortunate. All of the 4 verses shown above refer to the same thing. A servant does those things which 1) ought to be done and 2), which no one else is doing. Often churches will hire custodians and housekeepers because the members must work at their employment throughout the week. However, actually all that these groups do is actually the work of the members but sadly too often members feel as though it is not, or beneath their station and dignity. How pathetic.

A classic example of Jesus honoring the role of *servant* is shown in the well-known verses below:

John13:13-17 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

The custom of that day was for the guest to provide a servant who would remove the guests sandals, wash their feet, and dry them with a cloth. No servant was there to perform this act. Jesus was confronted with 1) *that which ought to be done*, and 2) *that which no one else was doing*. Being servant minded, he did that which ought to be done and which no one else was doing. This is what a servant does. A servant has uppermost in his mind the needs of guests and brethren and never for one moment imagines that the deed is *beneath their station*. Many delight in decorating for a banquet or dinner, but get powerfully scarce after it is over and there is the matter of restoring the meeting hall, or gathering the trash. As one crosses a parking lot some will look at some stray trash and complain that "that shouldn't be there." But never think to pick it up or go inside and get a broom and dustpan. After all, that's someone else's job. If we were to incorporate foot washing in our worship services it would be a sham compared to what Jesus actually had in mind. I believe he wanted us to truly "love thy neighbor as thyself." And "Love one another as I have loved you." How did he love the disciples? He loved them as himself.

Anything which would contribute to their well being and creature comfort was his self appointed task.

You could decide, “Okay, I get it. I will start looking for things which 1) ought to be done and 2) which no one else is doing.” What matters is *why* you would behave in this matter. If you did this because you are a good little law and commandment keeper, it will be most hollow. The actions must flow naturally because 1) you genuinely love the parties for whom you perform the task and 2) regard them as children of God and your brothers and sisters whom you love and 3) it is the outflowing of the love of God, His love in your soul. If you perform menial tasks without this frame of mind, no doubt the other party will benefit, but its not the service that is needed.

We must learn to put first things first. We have to go back to basics. What did Jesus say were the two greatest commandments?

Matthew:22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, *Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

It is impossible to keep the second commandment properly without keeping the first. We too often want to find some busy work. We like to teach in Sunday School, read our Bibles, pray a little now and then, attend services, sing in the choir, and many such things, all of which are good. However, one can do all of these things and still be far from loving God with ALL their heart,soul, and mind. After all, don't we have the right to worry about stuff? Aren't our prejudices justified? Each person well knows how far along they are in the matter of loving God without reservation. They do not need to give a recital of it to others. They know in their hearts if they are substituting busy work for the more important thing, of loving God without reservation.

God is not so interested in us doing things as He is interested in us *being*. He wants us to *be* one who loves Him without reservation in order for us to be of a mind to love our neighbor as ourselves and be servant minded. If one becomes totally focused upon being a lover of God, the loving of neighbors and servicing them will be the natural outflowing from that relationship. To attempt service to neighbors and brothers without the love of God in our hearts can easily become a matter of our becoming law keepers rather than what God had in mind.

We must concern ourselves first of all with *being* the person God wants us to be in our hearts, souls, and minds. This must precede all other activities. You come to the realization that when you have seen Jesus; you have seen the Father, as he said. We must first of be born again by asking the Holy Spirit to so fill us with the love of God so that there no longer remains room for anything else. When this becomes our state, then we become partners with God the Father in His loving our brethren and our neighbors. We will feel breathed into our spirit a suggestion to do a loving, selfless and altruistic thing

for another. As we accept the suggestion and move on it, we become partners with our Heavenly Father in loving and serving his children and our brethren.

To attempt being servant minded without first knowing the mind of the Father is only to engage in more busy activities. We could concern ourselves less with going somewhere and doing something, and more with simply being a lover of God without reservation. When the love of God fills your soul, being a servant will no longer be even a conscious thought. It will just flow from the primary relationship you have with your Heavenly Father as he continually loves and serves his children. If He has something in particular for you to do, He will let you know through the quiet suggestions that come to mind.

Romans:5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because *the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

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