

THE CHURCH – SERVANTS

Lesson 16

Introduction: Have you ever invited someone to attend a church meeting and hoped certain things wouldn't take place? ☺ The one that beats all for me was the time I invited a girlfriend to attend my Pentecostal Church with me. I thought I had prepared her for everything she might see or experience, but didn't realize it was the once a year "foot washing service". I'll never forget that look of horror on her face as they separated the men from the women to take part. Today we will look at the scripture that practice is taken from and exactly what Jesus was trying to teach us from it.

1. PICTURE / VALUE #1: A RESTORED CHURCH ✓
2. PICTURE / VALUE #2: THE CHURCH – A HOSPITAL ✓
3. PICTURE / VALUE #3: THE CHURCH – A SCHOOL ✓
4. PICTURE / VALUE #4: THE CHURCH – A FAMILY ✓
5. PICTURE / VALUE #5: THE CHURCH – WORSHIPERS
6. PICTURE / VALUE #6: THE CHURCH – SERVANTS
7. PICTURE / VALUE #7: THE CHURCH – AN ADVANCING ARMY

***IN THIS CLASS WE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING POINTS...**

- THE *HIGH CALLING* OF SERVING
- THE *DEFINITION* OF SERVING
- THE *REWARD* OF SERVING
- THE *CHARACTERISTICS* OF SERVING

***MATTHEW 23:11 – "THE GREATEST AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR SERVANT"**

1. THE *HIGH CALLING* OF SERVING

**Mt 23:11-12 – "The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

- THE MESSAGE IS NOT FOOT WASHING, BUT SERVING OUT OF A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY.
- IT'S THE KEY TO GREATNESS
- THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM
- JESUS CAME TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED

2. THE *DEFINITION* OF SERVING

**1 John 3:17 – "... Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."*

**John 13:1 – "... Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love." *(Jesus then washed their feet)*

- SERVING IS "LOVE WITH OVERALLS ON"

3. THE *REWARD* OF SERVING

**Mt 25:21, 23 – "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"*

- **HIS APPROVAL WILL MEAN EVERYTHING**

4. **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SERVING**

**John 13:1-17 – As modeled and illustrated by Jesus washing feet!*

1It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12When 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.

A. SERVING IS BEST WHEN IT IS SPONTANEOUS

- ORGANIZATION: There is a legitimate need for it, but true servants are always ready to serve.
- BLESSED are those who don't have to be told or asked!

B. SERVING CAN BE LONELY

- SUCCESS: Not a few people doing a lot, but a lot of people doing little.
- SADLY, this often isn't the case with serving! – If you have to have many participating to jump in, you probably won't become a servant!
- KEY: Do it unto the Lord!

C. TRUE SERVING IS DONE IN OBSCURITY

- MANY can/will serve when others are watching, when recognized
- JESUS didn't need to have a crowd to serve!
- MOTIVE CHECK!

D. SERVING IS OFTEN INCONVENIENT

4 "...so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist."

- MANY serve when it's only convenient.

- JESUS got up from the meal!

E. TRUE SERVING IS SELF-LESS

**1 John 3:16 – “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”*

**Phil 2:3-5 – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition ... but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”*

- WE are basically selfish! *(Is 53:5)
- JESUS wants to change our natures from selfish to selfless.
- THE TOOL He uses is: Serving!

F. TRUE SERVING IS HUMBLING

4So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him...

8“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

- HUMILITY is another strong lesson here in addition to serving!
- A SLAVE’S GARB & JOB
- IN THE KINGDOM: THE WAY ↗ IS ↘

G. TRUE SERVING IS INDISCRIMINATE

2The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus

- JESUS served Judas, knowing he would betray him.
- TWO SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES IN PLAY HERE...
 1. Love & bless your enemies! (Mt 5:43-48)
 2. Give without keeping record! (Luke 14:12-14)

H. SERVING IDENTIFIES US WITH CHRIST

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

- WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JESUS! (John 12:21)
- THEY SEE JESUS IN OUR SERVING!

I. SERVING BRINGS GREAT BLESSING & JOY

17Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- JOY FOR US AND THE RECIPIENTS!
- KEY: WE MUST DO IT!

CONCLUSION: If we all commit to dying to ourselves and living for and serving others, we will be both great and successful in the eyes of our Lord!