

The Friend Who Stooped Down

Introduction

“I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”
— Albert Schweitzer

Characteristics of a Christ-Like Servant

1. A Servant’s Actions are Motivated by Love.

“It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.” - John 13:1-2

Jesus’ Love Was...

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| a) Possessive | b) Continuous |
| c) Unconditional | d) Unselfish |

In His most difficult hour, Jesus placed others before Himself!

2. Servants Are Secure Enough to Minister Freely

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” - John 13:3-5

Jesus Knew...

- a) What He could do.
- b) Who He was.
- c) Where He was going.

3. Servanthood Exposes Pride in My Life

*“He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”
⁷ Jesus 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!”
- John 13:6-9*

*“God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.”
- Dwight L. Moody*

4. Servants Teach by Example.

“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. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” - Jn. 13:12-15

What did Jesus visually teach His disciples?

- a) Look for opportunities to serve others.
- b) Big people do little tasks.
- c) Serve everyone, not just those you like.
- d) Only the secure will stoop.
- e) We reflect Jesus when we have a servant’s heart.

5. Servants Act Upon What They Know.

“Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” - John 13:16,17

6. Servants Oppose the Popular Philosophy of this World.

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned against me.’ ¹⁹ “I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.” - John 14:18,19

*Jesus sacrificed Himself to save others;
Judas sacrificed Jesus to save himself.*

7. Servanthood Always Lifts Up Jesus.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.” - John 14:20

Question: In your early spiritual life, who was one of the people who demonstrated to you what it means to “wash feet”? What did he/she do?

How can you pass along the servant’s heart now?

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