

SERVING LIKE JESUS

Matthew 20:20-28

- **In our MY CHURCH series we want to help people become more connected to Jesus Christ and to Celebration Church, so they can begin to really fulfill His purposes and plans for their lives.**

- ***When you think of strong leaders in the world today, what are some of the characteristics you think of?***
- **The world has concepts of what a leader should look, think, and act like.**
- **Today's passage highlights a clash of perspectives: while the mother of James and John desired positions of power for her sons, she held a worldly view of leadership that stood in stark contrast to the way of Jesus.**
- Jesus - *"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 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."* (Matthew 20:26-28)
- **In the Kingdom of God, the way up is down. Jesus replaces the world's ladder of success with a towel of service.**
- **The Apostle Paul teaches us that Jesus Himself came to serve humankind and set an example for us in serving others (Philippians 2:5-8).**
- **Becoming like Jesus requires serving others.**
- ***Why is it so important to serve like Jesus?***

To Serve Like Jesus We Must Understand That:

SERVING IS AN ACT OF <u>LOVE</u>

- The Apostle Paul - *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."* (Galatians 5:13)

- **Service is the megaphone of our faith—it's how the world hears the love of Christ.**
- Jesus - *"I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* (John 13:34-35)
- **Service is love's greatest sacrifice: it's the moment we trade our 'me' for 'them.**
- The Apostle Paul - *"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."* (Philippians 2:3-4)
- **Love is the motive; service is the evidence.**

To Serve Like Jesus We Must Understand That:

SERVING IS AN ACT OF <u>WORSHIP</u>

- **True worship doesn't end when the music stops—it continues through our hands as we serve God and others.**
- The Apostle Paul - *"Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice- the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him."* (Romans 12:1)
- **When we surrender our will to God, our hands naturally reach out to the world.**
- **Service is worship with its sleeves rolled up—the moment we invest our time, talent, and treasure into God's eternal Kingdom.**
- **Consistent service is a spark; when others see your heart for people, it ignites their heart for God.**
- Jesus - *"You are the light of the world-like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.* (Matthew 5:14-16)

To Serve Like Jesus We Must Understand That:

SERVING IS AN ACT OF <u>OBEDIENCE</u>

- Jesus - *"If you love Me, keep My commands."* (John 14:15)
- **As followers of Christ, we aren't just called to *feel* compassion; we are commissioned to be the hands and feet that deliver it.**
- Jesus **-** *"For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you*

visited Me.' Then the righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see You hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give You something to drink? Or a stranger and show You hospitality? Or naked and give You clothing? When did we ever see You sick or in prison and visit You? And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me." (Matthew 25:35-40)

- **Obedient service is a double-edged blessing: it changes the life of the one we help while dismantling the pride in our own hearts.**
- Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."* (Matthew 16:24-25)

To Serve Like Jesus We Must Understand That:

SERVING IS AN ACT OF <u>MATURITY</u>

- The Apostle Paul - *"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."* (Philippians 2:3-4)
- **Maturity is the radical transition from gathering spiritual facts to embodying the spiritual mind of Christ.**
- **True spiritual maturity is found when we trade our personal agendas for a servant's heart, reflecting the hope and compassion of Jesus to a world in desperate need.**
- Jesus - *"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:26-28)

- **The mother of Disciples John and James wanted their connections with Jesus to culminate in honor and prestige for her sons.**
- *"She replied, 'In Your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to You, one on Your right and the other on Your left.'"* (Matthew 20:21)
- **When Jesus confronts our selfish motives with His call to selflessness, He invites us into a life of service—a single act that unites our love, worship, obedience, and spiritual maturity.**
- The Apostle Paul - *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Galatians 5:13-14)

- ***Are you following Jesus to get a crown, or are you following Him to find a towel?***
- ***What are some ways that I need to get involved in serving God through serving others?***
- ***How else is the Lord challenging me today?***