

Servanthood

"Character Counts" - Week Five

Mark 10:43-44 -

Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

I. A Servant is Honest in Self-Assessment
- Romans 12:3

Romans 12:3 -

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Acts 6:1-4 -

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers,...

Acts 6:1-4 -

pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- I. A Servant is Honest in Self-Assessment- Romans 12:3
- Psalm 131:1-2 -

O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

II. A Servant is Dependent – I Cor. 4:7

I Corinthians 4:7 -

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

II. A Servant is Dependent – I Cor. 4:7

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 -

Beware lest you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

III. A Servant has a Willing Spirit
- Luke 1:38

Luke 1:38 -

Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

IV. A Servant Operates Behind the Scenes
- John 3:30

John 3:22-30 -

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim...And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven....

John 3:22-30 -

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."

IV. A Servant Operates Behind the Scenes
- John 3:30

"Servanthood begins where gratitude and applause end."

~Tim Keller, Ministries of Mercy

V. Servanthood is Relational - Phil. 2:3-4

Philippians 2:3-4 -

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

VI. A Servant is Teachable - Romans 12:16

Romans 12:16 -

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

VI. A Servant is Teachable - Romans 12:16

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them...Many people are looking for an ear that will listen."

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

VII. Servanthood is Sacrificial - Mark 10:45

Mark 10:43-45 -

Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

VII. Servanthood is Sacrificial - Mark 10:45

I Pet. 2:24 -

He bore our sins in His body on the cross.