

How Friends Serve

Being and Making Disciples P??

Jeff Wall

LAST WEEK - *Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **Not so with you.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"*
Matt 20:25-28 (NIV)

Jesus changes the rules of the game...?

1. To be first - I must be last
2. To be best - I must be least
3. To get to the top - I must find my way to the bottom

How do we move toward servant-hood? How do we move towards spiritual maturity.

DISCIPLES / FRIENDS 'SERVE FIRST'

CHECK OUT OUR LEADERS EXMAMPLE

It 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. John 13:1 NIV

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

How do we become a better servant? How do we serve others?

1. Develop an attitude of humility.

God doesn't like pride. God looks down on arrogance. 1 Peter 5:5 says *"And all of you serve each other with humble spirits [circle "humble spirits"] for God gives special blessing [circle "special blessings"] to those who are humble but sets Himself against those who are proud."*

2. Grow in security as God's person. A servant isn't out to impress others.

Galatians 1:10 Paul says *"Am I now trying to win the approval of men or of God? If I'm trying to please men I would not be a servant of Christ."*

3. Remind myself of what God has done for me.

"I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy the kind He can accept. When you think of what He has done for you is this too much to ask?" Romans 12:1

Great servants are grateful servants.

"God has given each of you some special abilities. Be sure to use them to help each other passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." Remind yourself today of what God has given you. 1 Peter 4.

4. Pursue WISDOM! It's the only way to "Get It"

Proverbs says *"Cry out for wisdom. Beg for understanding. Search for it as you would for silver. Hunt for it like hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to respect the Lord."*

Why wisdom and servant-hood?

When we have God's wisdom we have the who and the where and the when to serve. God gives us discernment so that we can serve the right people at the right time and place.

He has called us to SERVE not to rescue or enable!

When you lack wisdom you know it and the people around you know it.

5. To get your heart right.

Serve for the right reason. You don't serve to look good.

Jesus says, *"Be careful. When you do good things don't do them in front of people to be seen by them. If you do that then you have no reward from your Father in heaven."*

Our SERVICE will be rewarded for eternity.

Jesus said, *"My father will honor the one who serves Me."* John 12:26

The God of all rewards who will say someday to us, *"Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness."* Matt 25:23