

BIBLICAL SERVANTHOOD

“Serving is one of the greatest challenges in the life of a disciple. Everyone enjoys being served, but few make an effort to serve others. People don’t mind being called servants, but they don’t want to be treated as servants. The mature Christian is marked by what he will do for others without expecting anything in return.”

The New 2:7 Series, Book 2: Deepening Your Roots in God’s Family; Navpress, 1999.

VERSE ANALYSIS 1

Charlie Riggs says, "Telling is not Teaching,
Listening is not Learning,
We learn to do by Doing"

- Instructions:
1. Write the thought of the verse **itself** in your own words. (Paraphrase)
 2. Write the thought of the verse(s) **before** in your own words. (Context)
 3. Write the thought of the verse(s) **after** in your own words. (Context)
 4. Write one or more **Cross References** and one or more **Problems**.
 5. Write out a **Personal Application** (something that by God's grace will be different in my life tomorrow as a result of my contact with this portion of God's word today).

The Navigators 2:7 Series Course 2, Session 9, Pages 58-61, 1979

SERVANTHOOD

MARK 10:42-45

- ⁴² But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.
- ⁴³ But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
- ⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
- ⁴⁵ For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
(KJV)

CONTEXT OF THE VERSE:

1) Thought of verses **42 & 43**: Summarize in your own words

2) Thought of verse **44**: Summarize in your own words

3) Thought of the **verse itself**: (v. 45) Summarize in your own words

4) List one **cross-reference** and one **problem**:

5) **Personal application**: Write at least one thing which will be different in your life tomorrow as a result of your contact with this portion of God's word today.

VERSE ANALYSIS 2

Charlie Riggs says, "Telling is not Teaching,
Listening is not Learning,
We learn to do by Doing"

1. Write the thought of the verse **itself** in your own words. (Paraphrase)
2. Write the thought of the verse(s) **before** in your own words. (Context)
3. Write the thought of the verse(s) **after** in your own words. (Context)
4. Write one or more **Cross References** and one or more **Problems**.
5. Write out a **Personal Application** (something that by God's grace will be different in my life tomorrow as a result of my contact with this portion of God's word today).

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JOHN 13:14-17

14. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.
15. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you.
16. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord; neither is he that is sent greater than he that sent him.
17. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

(KJV)

CONTEXT OF THE VERSE:

1) Thought of **verse 14 & 15**: Summarize in your own words

2) Thought of **verse 16**: Summarize in your own words

3) Thought of the **verse itself**: (v. 17) Summarize in your own words

4) List one **cross-reference** and one **problem**:

5) **Personal application**: Write at least one thing which will be different in your life tomorrow as a result of your contact with this portion of God's word today.

Philippians 2:5-7 (KJV)

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

A Skeptic's Quest

Josh McDowell's Search for Reality

by Joe Musser

Chapter 12

THOUGH HE HAD PEACE FOR THE TIME BEING ABOUT PAULA, Josh's spirit was still suffering. He was a seminary graduate, but he had been with Campus Crusade for four years and had never taught a seminar at a conference. All he had ever done was take care of the book table area and make sandwiches, etc., for those who were witnessing. Have you ever made one thousand sandwiches? And have you ever put the Four Spiritual Laws booklets inside the sandwiches with the peanut butter? He just didn't feel appreciated – Campus Crusade didn't realize what they had.

Then, suddenly, his hour of glory came. He got a call from Ted Martin of Crusade's Institute of Biblical Studies to teach at the IBS meeting later that year! He couldn't believe it—he had gone from nothing to everything, all at once.

He prepared thoroughly for nearly six months. He planned to teach a series from the book of Romans and when it was nearly time for the IBS meetings, had a wealth of notes and materials. He was looking forward to this speaking ministry.

A week before he was to leave for IBS, Josh got a phone call from Bill Bright in California. "This is a special year for us at staff training at Arrowhead," he said. "It's our international year and we'll be having the largest staff ever. Josh...the administration at our hotel has fallen apart. I need you to come back here and help me. Please make arrangements right away. I'd like you to be back here in three days to take charge."

There was a pause on Josh's end of the line. He had been looking forward to teaching at IBS. *What an abominable sense of time*, he thought. *I don't want to go!* "Josh, I need you," Bright repeated. "Okay...I'll be there," he said and hung up. Angrily, Josh threw his clothes and books together and packed them into his car. He fumed all the way to California, and his attitude was no more pleasant when he arrived.

His assignment was to supervise the 30 staff people and organize the facilities for the nearly 1,700 people from all parts of the world.

Josh stayed up all night the first few days trying to put together procedures and organization.

He tried to establish a basic administrative plan to handle the logistics of the hundreds of internationals expected.

An inexperienced staff of 30 was no match for 1,700 incoming people – many of whom had trouble with English. Some had customs regarding meals and housing which were at odds with the best-laid plans of Josh and his people.

To make matters worse, the hotel's equipment would break down, but never when it was convenient. Only when it caused further disruption.

Finally, the proverbial straw. A terrible case of dysentery broke out. The sickness spread in a matter of two or three days to just about everyone. There were lines at every rest room. This meant that the plumbing was also overworked to the point of breakdown.

Josh found himself-with bucket, mop and toilet plunger in hand – making the rounds of the rest rooms. The rest of the staff was either out sick or tied up with the needs of meals and other chores.

Josh himself was sick, but had no time to think about it. Every toilet in the hotel and other buildings had to be scrubbed twice a day. He was working 20 to 22 hours a day, able to catch only cat naps of two or three hours a night.

Somehow it all got done. But Josh had not been able to attend a single meeting to hear any of the world famous speakers brought in for the occasion. He did meet one of them, however.

He had just finished with the toilets on the second floor and filled his bucket with fresh water. He picked up the plunger and started down the stairs to the lobby.

There he ran into Bill Bright escorting Billy Graham on a tour of the facilities. "Oh, Dr. Graham," he paused, waving to Josh, "I'd like you to meet our Canadian director, Josh McDowell."

The tall evangelist smiled graciously and stuck out his hand.

Josh awkwardly stuck the plunger under his arm, took the bucket in his left hand, wiped his right hand on his shirt and sheepishly shook hands with Billy Graham.

As they walked away, Bill Bright remarked, "you know, our staff people are devoted. They're willing to do anything."

Josh wanted to shout after them, "I'm *not* willing!"

The next morning Josh nearly lost his temper when an assistant to Bill Bright stopped him.

"Those plastic flowers by the front desk are dusty. I'm sure Bill wouldn't appreciate it if he came by and saw they were dusty. You ought to dust them," he told Josh.

Josh imagined doing something else with the plastic flowers, but go out a rag and dusted them.

In the afternoon, the brand new red carpet was finally vacuumed in the lobby. It was the last chore Josh had to do before he could finally go to hear one of the speakers. At long last he'd be able to participate in one of the meetings which had been going so well. Then Bill Bright rushed up to Josh.

“Come here-quickly!” he called to Josh. The parking lot had just been tarred and someone had obviously walked in it and tracked in the thick, tacky tar. His footprints were visible across the length of the lobby. “Get something – some cleaner, some rags. Hurry and clean it up before it sets,” Bright said.

It took all afternoon and most of the night to clean up the tar. The more cleaning solvent he rubbed into each spot, the bigger it got. It called for more scrubbing, hard scrubbing.

A Crusade staff person came by just as he was finishing and teased him.

“Scrub harder, slave. I still see some spots.” He was joking, but Josh was obviously in no mood for humor. He was ready to throw in the towel – rather, rag. Angrily he stood and was all set to heave the solvent can at the front desk, to be followed by an extremely vocal resignation. Somehow the urge was checked.

A sudden conviction came over him. No one was really out to get him. He had brought the attitude of bitterness with him from Canada.

Josh recalled with feelings of repentance the Scriptures he had read in devotions that morning describing how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. Immediately the thought came over him, “If Jesus can wash their feet, why can’t I scrub their floors and clean their toilets?” It was an immediate lesson in submission.

The Bible illustration seemed to burn into his spirit, all the more convicting because of the Lord’s example and his nasty attitude.

That night Josh prayed for grace to be a true servant for Christ. He realized that before you can ever become a leader you need to learn how to be a follower. And the next day, Josh began a new pattern of service. He went out of his way to find things that needed doing; he worked harder and later than anyone else. It was something he wanted to do as a service to Christ, to make up for getting off on the wrong foot. For the next several weeks he scrubbed and (cleaned harder than ever) to learn submission.

The spirit was not lost to others. Bill Bright told Josh, “God can teach us many things in a servant’s role. When we first started, there were so many valuable things I learned by washing dishes, planting flowers, mowing the lawns – and yes” – he laughed, “even scrubbing latrines!”

It was a difficult time as Josh continued the backbreaking work of taking care of the six-week international staff training. Because of the work, sleeplessness and sickness, Josh had lost over 20 pounds.

There was difficulty also in measuring his progress in his quest for submission and acquiring the attitude of a servant.

His first question was – What can a person learn through being a servant? Was Bill Bright merely trying to sound spiritual by indicating God teaches through submission?

Sure, the Lord said, “The greatest shall be the least,” but wouldn’t it be better to use your abilities for God in an aggressive, leadership capacity? Josh thought the church was lacking capable leaders and wondered if it was right to constantly put himself in the subservient role.

Everything he heard from Christian leaders, plus what he read about the subject in the Bible, all pointed to that earlier conviction – that God honors the servant and promotes the one who defers to others.

It would be a lesson to consider again and again, not one easily learned.

Follow Me

Ira F. Stanphill ©1953

**I traveled down a lonely road and no one seemed to care.
The burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair.
I oft complained to Jesus how folks were treating me,
And then I heard Him say so tenderly.**

**“My feet were also weary, upon the Calv’ry road;
The cross became so heavy, I fell beneath the load.
Be faithful, weary pilgrim, the morning I can see,
Just lift your cross and follow close to Me.”**

**“I work so hard for Jesus” I often boast and say,
“I’ve sacrificed a lot of things to walk the narrow way.
I gave up fame and fortune, I’m worth a lot to Thee.”
And then I hear Him gently say to me.**

**“I left the throne of glory and counted it but loss,
My hands were nailed in anger upon a cruel cross.
But now we’ll make the journey with your hand safe in Mine,
So lift your cross and follow close to Me”**

**Oh, Jesus if I die upon a foreign field someday,
‘Twould be no more than love demands, no less could I repay.
“No greater love hath mortal man than for a friend to die.”
These are the words He gently spoke to me.**

**“If just a cup of water I place within your hand
Then just a cup of water is all that I demand.”
But if by death to living they can Thy glory see,
I’ll take my cross and follow close to Thee.**