

Servanthood

Russ Reid

I. Introduction.

A. The age of the servant is bygone.

B. What do we mean by servanthood today?

C. Illustration: a pastor who joined the Salvation Army and was given the lowliest of jobs. John 13 came to mind—if Christ could wash the disciple’s feet, he could wash the Salvation Army’s boots. The Lord used him to establish the Salvation Army in the US.

II. Philippians 2:3-8.

A. Being a servant is a matter of the will.

1. It is not something that comes naturally.

2. It is something that we learn and something we develop.

3. Christ “consented,” was obedient, humbled himself.

a. These are decisions that we have to make.

b. When Aaron said that idol (the Golden calf) just came out of the fire, he was not speaking honestly. Things do not just happen.

B. Being a servant is a matter of humility.

1. We are to consider as others as greater than ourselves.

2. Christ rejected personal rights and personal status.

C. Being a servant requires obedience to God’s will.

1. The key to pride is obedience. If we are living according to the Scriptures, we are being humble.

III. John 13:17.

A. We need to serve one another in sometimes menial tasks.

B. Christ did it, and we are not greater than the one who sent us.

C. We must be ready and observant for service.

D. We will find happiness when we get our eyes off of ourselves.

IV. Matthew 20:20-28.

- A. Christ came to set us free.
- B. Servant hood is the price to leadership and the prerequisite to leadership.
 - 1. There are those who pretend to root for the team, but are really just trying to draw attention to themselves.
- C. The goal of the servant is to make sure that other people succeed.

V. 2 Corinthians 4:5.

- A. Christ is preached, not oneself.
- B. Christ gets the spotlight in true service.
- C. It is done for service.

VI. 1 Corinthians 9:18-19.

- A. Paul makes himself all things to all people so that he might save some.
- B. Flexibility and objectivity is required for service.
- C. The goal is to help people grow in Christ and to come to Christ.

VII. How do you become a servant?

- A. Have a proper attitude. (Philippians 2:5-7, 13)
 - 1. Being predisposed and willing.
- B. Be observant. You cannot serve if you do not know the needs around you.
- C. Have a sense of responsibility and calling.
- D. Availability.

VIII. Illustrations of service.

- A. Delegation. (Acts 6)
- B. Encouragement. (Acts 28:15)
- C. As we serve people, God uses the seemingly menial things to bring glory to himself and share the gospel—the example of Paul and the viper.
- D. “There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians.” (Luke 22)
 - 1. A chief according to God’s economy is a servant.

Application questions.

1. How would you sum of the central message of the speaker? Which verses used support this theme the strongest, in your opinion? Explain.

2. How can you foster a servant's heart in your own life? How will you take real steps to apply the principles that the speaker raised?

3. What are some ways you can serve in your immediate context? List five needs of the people around you that you could help meet.
