

Heart of Worship: Servanthood

Bible verses Matthew 20:20-28

Brett McBride

Consider

- **Discuss:** Share stories of when you served someone and 1) it brought you joy! Or 2) it was really difficult.

Let's Examine

Read Philippians 2:5-11 to review the example Christ Jesus gave us of Servanthood.
Then Read Matthew 20:20-28

- **Discuss:** Contrast what must have been on Jesus' mind as they were walking toward Jerusalem with what was on the mind of the James, John, and their mother.
- **Discuss:** What did Jesus mean by "You don't know what you are asking?" Brett asked: *What were they really seeking? Were they seeking JESUS – or were they seeking power, popularity, and [position] over others?*
 - What do you think is the answer to that question and why do you think that?
- **Discuss:** What do you think of the boys' answer to Jesus' question in v.22? Where did their confidence lie? What might they have needed to learn?
- **Read vv.25-28 again:** Contrast worldly leadership with Godly leadership or influence.

Read John 13:1-17. The disciples went from arguing about power, popularity, and position, to having Jesus teach them about humbly serving, to watching the suffering and death of Jesus. As a result, Brett said, *they changed – they learned – they were different after that day! They repented... They learned that lesson – through failure! Their confidence that was misplaced – their desire for greatness that was focused on the wrong areas – changed that day!*

- **Discuss:** Taking their example from Jesus, they learned how he really wanted them to redefine 'greatness'? What was their ultimate definition? (Use 2 Peter 1:1, James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1, Revelation 1:1, Philippians 1:1 and Romans 1:1, to help you!)

Let's Apply

Brett told this story: *I remember one youth retreat where the toilets backed up and overflowed. Nobody wanted that assignment – everyone who wanted positions of influence could not be found for that particular task! ... I often times feel closer to Jesus when I'm worshipping this way – than when I'm in a leadership position. You steward power, and authority differently when your teachers about leadership are toilets!*

- **Discuss:** How is this story a good example of what Jesus was telling his disciples?

- **Discuss:** Brett mentions ‘worshipping’ in this story? How is wading into a bathroom with a plunger ‘worshipping’?
- **Discuss:** Explain the last sentence of Brett’s story with vv.25-28 in mind. How does this contrast to seeking **power, popularity, and position**? Why are those **3P’s** so attractive to us as humans compared to humility, servitude, and quiet sacrifice? Where else in the Bible are we admonished to seek humility, servitude, and sacrifice as a reflection of Christ in us?

Discuss: Brett used a number of quotes in his sermon: Choose one which challenges you or encourages you, and share your thoughts about it with the group. Discuss how you will be different going forward.

- “You cannot have Christ, if you will not serve Him.” – Charles Spurgeon
- “The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service.” – Billy Graham
- “Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.” – Martin Luther King Jr.
- “You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. God doesn't call the qualified – He qualifies the called. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.” – Martin Luther King Jr.
- “I believe that many professing Christians are cold and uncomfortable because they are doing nothing for their Lord; but if they actively served him, their blood would begin to circulate spiritually, and it would be well with them.” – Charles Spurgeon

Personal reflection: Is there a change needed in your life regarding serving others for God’s sake – as a form of worship to Him? What steps do you need to take to bring about that change?

Let’s Pray

Pause and quietly consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

- Spend time praising God: Worship him for who he is.
- Confess (silently or out loud) when you have not served the Lord, but rather have focused on serving yourself.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person in your group to evaluate how they are serving the Lord and seek to worship him through serving others.
- Continue to pray for the church around the world; for many to worship God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength!

Holy Spirit, empower us with the love of the Father to join Jesus in his mission. Grow us as your body for your global mission. Through Christ we pray. Amen.