



## Characteristics of great servants – Bible Study Notes

### Objective

The best of who we are is unfolded through our service to humanity. This bible study will help you understand what it takes to become a great servant.

### Introduction

**Matthew 20:28 New International Version (NIV)<sup>28</sup> 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.”**

Jesus is the son of God. However even with all that He is, the glory, the majesty, the dominion and power that all belongs to Him, He shows up to earth to serve. God is a conquering king, and whilst people in the world will step into an arena and conquer them by force, and make everybody their slaves, God steps into the World, conquers it by love and sets everybody free by serving like a servant.

There are a couple of lessons that God has modelled for us.

- A) True love is demonstrated in the depth of service you offer.
- B) The real power in your potential is only going to be unleashed in full through service.
- C) Outside of authentic service, love is weak, and power is unable to produce GOOD

Today, we want to take some time to understand the characteristics of great servants. Greatness awaits us. However, we will never be greater than the service we offer. Jesus is chief among the great because of the quality of His service to humanity

### Characteristics of great servants

We will stay here in **Philippians 2**, because we have a brilliant example of servanthood described here.

**Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

### Great servants are “Others Mindedness”

A great servant always has others on their mind. This is what we are called to. We are called to look out for the interests of others. It doesn't mean we don't look out for our own interests; it just means you don't look out for your own interests only.

I think that one of the things that is a plague in the church today is self-ambition that is void of true service. This is where the real driver for most believers is; the glory that you will get and not the service that you will deliver. What this creates is believers who are only interested in other people because showing interest will advance their cause!



We have to make a conscious decision to check our motives for the things that we do. Servant kings are others minded. Genuinely interested in the interests of others. You will thrive in business, in your health, in your mental health, in your walk with God, in your family life, when you become others minded. If you master the art of sitting where people sit, understanding where people are coming from, recognizing the needs of people, learning how to meet their needs, prosperity will follow you! Greatness will hunt you down.

Prosperity always comes when your service genuinely enhances or adds value to the interest of others. Most people stay small because they are the center of their world. Great people know how to put others first without neglecting themselves.

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

**6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**

**7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

**Great servants think like sons and serve like servants.**

Your servant hood is not replacement for your sonship. A servant king does not think it robbery to equal with God! A servant king understands that I am a son! I am a daughter. Don't get this twisted, we might call ourselves servants, but we are sons who choose to take on the form of servants.

Jesus is our ultimate example, the Son of God! He is not confused about that. But He understood that in order to accomplish the purpose of His father, He will need to take on the form of a servant!

He said in **Matthew 20:28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Notice that Jesus is not coming here on earth, and seeing himself as a worthless slave, He shows up with an understanding that He is the Son of God. Before you become a servant, know that you are a son! Before Jesus took on the form of a servant, He was a son.

It's the same thing with us, we are made sons because God adopted us into His family (Ephesians 1:5) but we choose to be servants in response to that amazing love! So, don't change your identity from son to servant, you are son, a daughter, who has adopted a life of service!

I believe that it is only when you understand your position as a son, that you will choose to serve. When you really get what John was saying, when He said what manner of love is this that we should be called sons of God! When you get that, we become faithful to service, not as servant, we become faithful to service as a son.

**Great servants are people of no reputation.**



**Philippians 2:7**, says about Jesus...He made Himself of no reputation! Great servants are people of no reputation. If your reputation as a church is more important to you than the one who called you, you will not be effective in your service.

In ministry, whether it is praying for someone to receive Jesus, or receive their healing or to pray in tongues, I can tell you that if you are worried about your reputation, you will not see the power of God manifested!

You cannot effectively become all that you are called to be if you are still a slave to your reputation. And we become slaves to our reputation when we are unsure or insecure about our identity. Reputation is who people think you are. Its how people view you or what they think of you. That's different to who you really are!

Real servants know who they really are, that's the only way you can truly be of no reputation! When you believe that you are powerful, you will never be worried about maintaining a reputation as a powerful person. It's servants that are not sure about their identity that fake a miracle to maintain their reputation of power! It's also servants who are not sure about their identity and their power that never attempt anything beyond their ability for fear of looking stupid!

When the church becomes of no reputation, we will start protecting our wounded instead of stomping on their heads! When we stop being concerned with our reputation, we'd dedicate ourselves to our calling!!

Great servants are people of no reputation! I want you to think well of me, but my reputation should never be as important as my dedication to Jesus! My reputation should never be as important as finishing my race! Let them think what they think! Dedicate yourself to Jesus in the dark! Dedicate yourself to him and his words in the light! That's what great servants do!

When you are of no reputation, you'll lay hands on the sick every time! You'll tell them about Jesus every time! You'll be unstoppable in the face of persecution!

### **Great Servants embrace suffering**

**Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

Something has happened in the course of the history of the church that meant that we have people who are who reject suffering. Somehow, the Word suffering has become a curse word!

But the reality is that as a servant of God, suffering is part of your calling. Even Jesus suffered! But if you look at the life of Jesus, you will find that everything that He suffered, He suffered within the context of His service to humanity. Outside of His serving, there was no suffering for Him!

Servant kings embrace the suffering! In my effort to serve you with this resource, whilst you were going about your day, I was in the books studying and preparing this resource. Someone else right now is working to make sure that as we stream live right now, you are having a great experience. They are facing different challenges in the effort to do that, but they're overcoming them. For your church service to happen, someone suffered to make it happen. They rehearsed



songs, carried speakers, seated people, cleaned the house. Suffering is nothing more than the process of overcoming the resistance you will face in your attempt to serve humanity. Suffering is not being sick or poor. It is overcoming sickness and/or poverty so that they don't become a hinderance to your service.

Don't be one of those who have dreams of greatness, but no willingness to suffer. Great servants embrace the suffering!

### **Great servants are destined for glory!**

**Philippians 2:8-11** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Glory is the destiny of every true servant of God! God is on a mission to cover the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. There is an enemy who is on a mission to stop you in your tracks. Every hinderance you encounter in your attempts to serve humanity is what we are referring to as suffering. The plan of the enemy in your life is to hinder you from manifesting the glory of God on the earth.

Fortunately, God also has a plan for everything you suffer...His intention is to glorify you and glorify the name of Jesus through your suffering. The challenge for us, is which agenda will you believe in? When you see resistance to the will of God for your life, will you give up and deny the Word? Or will you count it all joy when you suffer diverse trials and temptations?

### **Romans 8:16-18**

**The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

### **Conclusion**

Greatness requires purposeful effort. If you get great without purposeful effort, you probably will not stay great, because greatness does not manifest through an event. Greatness is achieved through the process.

It will take a greatness, great servants, wielding great power, exercising great authority to establish the kingdom of God on the earth in a great way. Give yourself to becoming a great servant on purpose. Be others minded. Think like a son, serve like a servant. Work at being a person of no reputation. Don't shy away from difficulties or suffering. Instead embrace those



seasons wholly dependent on the grace of God. Understand this, your destiny is great and glorious.

### **Discussion**

- In what practical ways can we become others minded
- Why is it tempting to invest more in your reputation than you do in your
- What difficulties do you encounter when you try to stay in faith in trying times? How have you learned to overcome?