

The Determination to Serve

A Single Bible Study Outline

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Matthew 28:20 says:

...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...

Luke 22:27 says:

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Bible Footnote*:

The world's system of leadership is very different from leadership in God's kingdom. Worldly leaders are often selfish and arrogant as they claw their way to the top... But among Christians, the leader is to be the one who serves best. There are different styles of leadership -- some lead through public speaking, some through administering, some through relationships -- but every Christian leader needs a servant's heart. Ask the people you lead how you can serve them better.

2 Corinthians 4:5 says:

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Bible Footnote:

Paul willingly served the Corinthian church even though they must have deeply disappointed him. Serving people requires a sacrifice of time and personal desires. Being Christ's follower means serving others, even when they do not measure up to our expectations."

Oswald Chambers has said a few noteworthy things as well:

...whether he received praise or blame made no difference. As long as there was one human being who did not know Jesus, Paul felt a debt of service to that person until he did come to know Him. But the chief motivation behind Paul's service was not love for others but love for his Lord. If our devotion is to the cause of humanity, we will be quickly defeated and broken-hearted... But if we are motivated by our love for God, no amount of ingratitude will be able to hinder us from serving one another. Once we realize that Jesus has served us even to the depths of our meagerness, our selfishness,

and our sin, nothing we encounter from others will be able to exhaust our determination to serve others for His sake."

Questions to Ask & Discuss

- What are actual steps we can take to make sure we are serving others for the right reasons?
- What are the right reasons?
- How can we regularly check ourselves to make sure our motivation hasn't shifted?
- Do we usually want people to know nice things we've done?
- Have you ever been able to put that aside? How?
- What are ways we can remind ourselves to keep our focus in check?
- Do you feel this debt to others like Paul did?
- Why is it so hard to humble ourselves?
- What are specific reasons/actions besides ingratitude that block our willingness to serve?
- How can we get past them?

*NIV Life Application Study Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc