

- **\*Read Mark 10:35-45\*** One of the greatest ways to achieve a goal or focus is to look to someone who has been successful in the same or a similar endeavor. If I want to be a good spouse then I might look to how another man who I deem to be a good husband and I might strive to emulate his example. If I want to have a successful business then I might look to pattern my business decisions after another businessman. If I want to build a successful sports team then I might look to other successful coaches and see what it is that they have done that has made them successful.
- Likewise, as we begin a year focusing on being Kingdom Servants, we want to think about emulating someone who truly exemplified what it meant to be a servant. I don't think we can choose a better example of someone who lived that life of servitude than that of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, the Son of God. In the text that we read just a moment ago, Jesus tries to impress upon His Apostles the absolute necessity of striving to be humble servants. While they are arguing for higher status and prominence, Jesus makes it very clear that even the Son of Man did not come to this earth to be served, but to instead serve others through everything that He did.
- This morning, I would like for us to use our time of study to consider the life of Jesus and how He used His life in total service to others. I believe we can identify 3 key areas in which Jesus was dedicated to service. The Apostle Paul implored the Corinthians to imitate Him as he imitated Christ (**I Cor. 4:16; 11:1**), and we want to do the same. We want to imitate Christ in our service to God and His Kingdom.

### **3 Ways that Jesus was a Servant.**

#### **I. Jesus faithfully served His Father.**

- A. Jesus came to this earth to do the will of His Father. (**Heb. 10:5-10**)
  1. In the context of sacrifices, the Hebrew writer quotes from **Psalms 40** which was a Psalm of David and a prophecy concerning Jesus. The main point is to say that Jesus came to fulfill the will of God.
  2. It was God's Will for Jesus to come to fulfill the Covenant of Moses so that the Covenant of Christ could be established. (**vv.9,10**)
  3. It was for this reason that Jesus came to this earth. He came to do whatever the will of His Father was, and He was not shy about saying this as often as He needed to. (**John 4:34; 6:35-40**)
  4. Jesus knew His purpose and Who He served and He wouldn't stray from those things.
- B. He was fully committed to faithfully doing the Will of His Father.
  1. This made Him a prime target for the temptations of Satan, yet He wouldn't give into the temptations. He stayed committed to His Father. (**Matt. 4:10 "You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only"**)
  2. He was committed to the Father's Will even though it caused Him to take a difficult path. (**Luke 22:41-44**)
  3. His Father was always His focus. Everything Jesus did (**John 14:31**) and everything He said (**John 12:49**) was in accordance with His Father's Will for Him.
  4. Jesus Himself was willing to do all things the Father might ask of Him. If God Himself would do so, then we certainly ought to faithfully serve and obey our Heavenly Father in all things.

#### **II. Jesus humbly served others.**

- A. Paul implored for the Philippians to have the same mindset towards others as Jesus did. (**Phil. 2:3-8**)
  1. Popular human nature is to do everything in the best interest of self, but Paul called for a higher standard for the Philippians and all Christians. He desired for them to be like Christ in their mindset towards others. (**vv.3-5**)
  2. Jesus was more concerned with the interests of others than He was for Himself. This mindset was exemplified through the actions of Jesus. He gave up the glory of heaven, took on human characteristics, suffered, and died for others. (**vv.6-8**)
  3. Nothing that Jesus did was for His benefit, but He did everything for the benefit of others. He had to humble Himself so much for a people who often tried to take His place.
- B. Our Lord was also a wonderful servant to many others during His ministry.
  1. One of the first occurrences that comes to our minds might be recording of Jesus washing His Apostle's feet. (**John 13:1-17**) He did this for the purpose of showing them that even the greatest among them should humble themselves to serve others.

2. After hearing about the death of John the Baptist, Jesus went off by Himself, but we quickly find him serving others by feeding them. **(Matt. 14:13-21)**
3. Jesus gave His time to heal many throughout His ministry. The lifelong blind man is one great example. **(John 9:1-7)**
4. Not only did Jesus show the importance of servitude through His example, but He also gave attention to teaching about serving others. **(Those who are great shall serve Matt. 20:26,27 & Parable of Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37)**
5. Through the example of Jesus and His teachings, we should quickly recognize our need for humble service towards others here in this life.

### **III. Jesus lovingly served the Church.**

- A. He served the Church through the ultimate act of love...giving up His life for it. **(Eph. 5:25-27)**
  1. In his teaching on the similarities between the husband & wife relationship and the relationship between Christ and His Church, Paul discusses how both the husband should be willing to give it all up and serve his wife just as Jesus gave it all up in serving the church.
  2. Christ gave Himself completely for the church so that she might be cleansed and sanctified, so that she might be presented to him without spot or wrinkle, so that she might be holy and blameless.
  3. The ability for this to happen was totally dependent on Jesus giving up of Himself. It was through Jesus's sacrifice that man has the opportunity to have their sins forgiven and washed away by this blood through the washing of water. **(v.26)**
- B. Jesus did this for the betterment of man's souls.
  1. God did all of this because of His perfect love for mankind. **(John 3:16)**
  2. Jesus lived a perfect life and fought through temptation so that His disciples within His Body could use Him as an example of encouragement. **(Heb. 4:15)**
  3. He taught and left His Apostles as the leaders of the church who would teach her in the ways of Christ. **(Acts 2:42)**
  4. Jesus did everything He could to set the church up for success and to provide for her every need.
  5. Jesus gave completely of Himself so that the Church would be strong and so that souls would be saved. We ought to follow His example and serve the church in every way we can for the betterment of the church and the souls of others.

As we have seen this morning, Jesus was busy serving others in all that He did while He was here on the earth. He left us with the perfect example for how we can serve others. May it never be said by us that we have no place to serve. Jesus served His Father, others, and the Church constantly, and we ought to be busy doing the same. May God help us to have a heart for service like our Lord and Savior. May God help us to serve Him, others, and the church in every way that we can. May God be glorified in our service to Him and the Kingdom!