

Philippians 2: Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but

with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

John 13:15 is the key. "For I have given you an example that you should _____ / have done to you." The word "as" there in the Greek is *kathōs*. *Kathōs* means "like as." He is not saying do the same thing, He is saying do it in the same manner. Not do that which I do, but do it in the way that I do it, like I do it. This is not an example of foot washing; this is an example of humility.

"Living with a servant heart is not easy because it means moving against the strong current of the world. To live as a servant is going to be a battle. Some will use you. Some will ridicule you. Some will overlook you and call you weak and say you have no ambition. Be prepared.

Servanthood is not something you learn, it is something you _____. In other words, it is not about reading more books or taking more classes, it is about relating to others with the heart of Jesus." Goettsche

You say, "Well I don't understand why the world doesn't read our message. I don't understand why the world doesn't hear what we're saying." It could be, because they can't see our love. They may never ever hear our words. But, they will perceive our love when it's on this level, irresistible. Jesus says we've got to learn it and follow His example.

Reality:

Following Christ's example does not come _____. Battle with _____ is a daily fight. So keep fighting! Keep practicing! Try to improve your serve!

Bible Extra:

It is remarkable that this section of John, starting in chapter 13, begins with the statement, 'Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them to the end;' (13:1). This section ends in chapter 17 with Jesus praying, 'that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them' (17:26).

| | Life | Light | Love |
|----------------|------|-------|------|
| Chapters 1-12 | 50 | 32 | 12 |
| Chapters 13-17 | 6 | 0 | 34 |

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: Greatness

Topic: Improving your serve

Luke 9:43-49: Jesus had just healed a demon-possessed boy.

Luke 22:23-26 This is the night in the upper room, the day before His crucifixion. This evening is the last chance Jesus has to give instruction to the 12. Jesus had just explained that one of them was going to betray Him.

In our culture?

It feels like everyone is trying to demonstrate their significance by comparing numbers, educational degrees, and by pontificating on weighty issues. It is a common human weakness.

"This is the curse of our society. Two things are true of most people. First, we feel like we never measure up. We are always behind someone on some list somewhere. Second, we view everyone (and everyone else's kids) as the "competition". Because of this our society has tended to turn arrogance and pettiness from a vice into a virtue. We call it confidence or 'feeling good about yourself.'" Goettsche

Jesus tells his disciples that they are defining "success" and "value" the wrong way.

There were other times that the twelve had gotten into this sort of silly debate.

- They had argued about the same matter while they walked at some distance from Jesus, thinking that He couldn't hear what they were discussing (Mark 9:33-37). But He knew what they were discussing and used the occasion to teach them about childlike humility.
- On another occasion, the mother of James and John had come to Jesus to ask that her sons could sit on His right and left in the kingdom. The other disciples were indignant (Mark 10:35-45). What right had these two brothers to claim the top spots in the kingdom? Jesus taught them that the greatest should become the servant and the one who wished to be first should be the slave of all.
- An argument or dispute... Luke 22:²⁴ Now an eager contention arose among them [as to] which of them was considered and reputed to be the greatest. (Amplified) There was a dispute. That word is *philoneikia*...*phileo*...love, love of arguing, love of strife (lit. love of contention). They just love to get into arguments about their relative greatness.



One pastor's view on this text in Luke:

"Being a servant is a mindset, where each day you make yourself available to Christ and ask Him to use you in His service in whatever ways He chooses. It may be to speak a word about the Savior to someone who needs Him. It may be to offer cheerful help to someone in need. It may be to listen to a person who needs sympathy or understanding. But whatever the job, your daily attitude is, 'Lord, here I am. Use me as Your servant.' If you're not living in that way, then you are living for self, not for Christ." Steven Cole

There are many Christians who will serve God as long as there is no opposition and things are going relatively smoothly.

- But what about when _____ or opposition comes?
- What about when we are _____?
- What about when we are _____ or when people question our motivation?

The great enemy of servanthood: Self.

Earlier in Luke Jesus was clear about this: "if anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). But denying self isn't a once- and-for-all decision that we make and then get on with life. Self keeps rearing its ugly head, even in those who have tried to kill the monster for years! So, even the most mature saints constantly have to do battle with self.

- A. Self reveals itself in _____.
- B. Self reveals itself in _____.

The battle with self needs to be reminded:

James 4:1: *What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?*

Personal inspection:

What is the biggest obstacle you face as you seek to be a faithful servant of Christ?

"Now you would think that the Apostles would have said, 'Lord, You're going to be betrayed, tell us more. What can we do to help You? What can we do to protect You? What can we do, Lord? Please, Lord, we want to sympathize, we want to show compassion, help us know what to do.'

They don't. They're just trying to sort out who would do this. And they're caught up in this discussion. And you can understand the discussion would go like this, 'Well you know what? He might do it. I always had suspicions about so-and-so over there. Thaddaeus or Philip or Andrew. I would never do it. I would never do that. There would never be a time I would do that.'

So the discussion begins to deteriorate into this dialogue about who is capable of doing this. And in the meanwhile, Jesus suffers alone without sympathy, without consideration. And as they talk about who might betray Jesus, they make a transition to a very familiar subject, they start talking about themselves and their relative evil capabilities." J Mac

"How easily they are distracted. How easily they turn away from the Lord who is about to be betrayed to themselves. How easily they lose sight of what He will suffer and start to think about what they deserve. They have already basically abandoned the idea that Jesus is about to be betrayed, which means arrested and led to death. And instead of being captivated by the Savior's plight, they want to argue about which of them is going to be the greatest when He sets up His Kingdom. Is not this the most insensitive and oblivious self-centered group ever? This is embarrassing." JMac

John 13:1-5, 12: The same evening, at the Last Supper, by a different author:

Now what does it mean that He loved them to the end? That's the key to understanding this verse. To the end in the Greek is *eis telos*, and it means this; He loved them to _____. He loved them utterly. He loved them to the uttermost. He loved them with total fullness of love.

With a knowledge of His coming death, His resurrection, His glory, with the task of sin-bearing on the cross He was still preoccupied with a totally perfect consuming full love for His own disciples. He loved them to the nth possibility that love could go. That's how He loved them.

He was surrounded by self-serving men, and He takes the time to change into His work clothes and does the act of a lowly slave.

Summary: Statements from 6 of the sources of study:

So many quarrels in the church (and in our homes) would evaporate if we would, with humility of mind, regard the other person as more important than ourselves!

The real lesson that Christ is teaching is this, He is teaching that the disciples need to begin to operate on the basis of humility. He is not going to allow them to get away with bickering over who's the hot shot. He wants them to get at the issue of who's going to be humble and show love.