

The Master's Class – Greatness Is Found In Serving

Matthew 20:20-28 - ²⁰ Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. ²¹ “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” ²² But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”²³ Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

²⁴ When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. ²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:22-23 - ²² But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don’t know what you are asking! ²³ Jesus told them, “...But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

Serve or service - the action of helping or doing work for someone. An act of assistance.

1. You Were Shaped to Serve Others.

Ephesians 2:10 (TLB) - It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.

Acts 9:36 - There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.

2. We are Indebted to God.

Romans 12:1 says, “Because of God’s great mercy to us, offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.”

3. Serving Others Makes Life Meaningful.

Mark 8:35 (TLB) “Only those who throw away their lives for My sake and the sake of the good news will ever know what it means to really live.”

1 Corinthians 15:56 (GNT) “Keep busy in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever without value.”

4. Serving Others Will Be Honored in Heaven.

John 12:26 - “My Father will honor the ones who serve Me.”

Matthew 25:21 - “Well done good and faithful servants. You’ve been faithful in a few things. I’ll put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.”

John 13:3-5, 12-17

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.