



volume one

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Lord, Make Me Like You

By: Kathryn Baker

"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." John 13:15 At the conclusion of washing His disciple's feet, and within the context of teaching the importance of humbly serving others, Jesus gave this command in John 13 that is as relevant to us today as it was to those in His hearing. We want to be like Jesus. We want to serve like He served. We sing about it! *"Make me a servant, Lord, make me like You!"* As we aim to serve more like our Savior, consider these characteristics that we should emulate.

Outward Focus - Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). While it is not our purview to do any saving, we must be about the seeking. Seek opportunities to help, teach, and encourage – serving - with the ultimate goal of bringing others closer to the One who *can* save. Jesus did this best by being out among the people. He was found teaching and serving amid the destitute and wealthy, friends and enemies, sinners and disciples. A wise preacher once said, "If your only friends are Christians, you need to find some new friends." While we should never violate the wisdom of I Corinthians 15:33, if all of our time is spent building relationships with those already saved, we severely limit our opportunities to serve as light shiners (Matthew 5:16).

Inward Focus - Jesus had the unique perspective of knowing exactly how limited His time was on Earth, yet it was still His custom to periodically withdraw from the crowds to spend time with the Father (Luke 22:39 ff). We understand the need to take a break from our busy lives, but it's often that same busy-ness that keeps us from serving others as we should. Our usefulness in serving in the kingdom can become

stunted when we don't take time for our own spiritual growth. Prioritizing time spent in the word increases wisdom and time spent in prayer can open doors of opportunity to more effectively do the very thing we desire – serve Christ by serving others (Matthew 25:40).

Upward Focus - Jesus was well aware of the temptation to seek glory for self (Matthew 4:6-10). He instructed His disciples concerning it on multiple occasions, and ultimately the lesson for all is: *it's not about us* (Matthew 6:1-4, Mark 9:35, John 13:16). No matter the number of good deeds or the level of knowledge, if our motivation isn't to first lower ourselves and turn our eyes (and other's) toward our Heavenly Father, then we aren't serving like Jesus!

It is a life-long journey to mold and shape our lives to be more like our Savior. As we look for ways to serve others, grow spiritually, and point others to the Father, may the prayer of our hearts always be, *make me a servant, Lord make me like You!*



Kathryn and her husband Andy (SWSBS graduate) live in Maud, TX where Andy preaches for the Maud church of Christ. They have been married for 10 years, and she stays at home with their three children. Kathryn has a degree in Finance from Texas A&M University. She writes regularly for the Come Fill Your Cup blog and enjoys teaching Bible classes for all ages. In her spare time, she loves food (both cooking and especially eating), gardening, and taking their Boston terrier, Sharky for walks.

Allowing Others to Serve Me When I'm in Need By: Phyllis Siebert

"Me do it!" The mantra of most two-year-olds. "I don't need "your" help", often spouted from a frustrated teen's lips. Independence is something most people are proud to attain and strive to maintain. There is a time, though, when we find ourselves the ones being served. How do we handle this situation with grace?

When we focus on servitude we often overlook the fact that for someone to be a servant, someone has to be served. As you may have already read in this edition of Upright Woman the scriptures have much to say about being a servant. What do the scriptures tell about how to be served? Let's look. David in 1 Samuel 25, 2 Samuel 15:34 and 2 Samuel 16:1-4, allowed others to help him in his time of need. Paul mentions many people in Romans 16 who were of valuable service to him. Jesus, our greatest example, allowed those around Him to provide shelter for Him, feed Him (Luke 10:38), and anoint His feet with ointment (John 12:3).

Being the recipient of someone's generous service does many things. Here are 4 important ones:

1. Builds humility in the recipient. 1 Chronicles 17
2. Provides joy to the server. Acts 20:35
3. Fulfills Matthew 25: 34-40 and introduces others to true Christianity.
4. Glorifies God. Luke 5:25 and Luke 17:15

Our bodies are often quick to notify us when there is a need. Perhaps it's hungry or in pain or just tired. We are usually just as quick to respond to that need. If we go to feed our hungry stomach it does not say "Oh, no thank you, I'm fine.". The body of Christ should operate much the same way. If we have a need and someone comes to fill it, let them.

Remember, we all stand in need of the service of Christ for the salvation of our souls. Romans 5:8

May we all serve others every chance that we have. May we all remember that our turn to be on the receiving end of someone else's service may be just around the corner. Let us receive that service with grace and humility; knowing that we are strengthening the one serving us as much, if not more than they are strengthening us.

Words of Wisdom

Our Motivation to Serve By: Pat Holt

I Cor.9:19 says "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

What an amazing scripture! Reading the whole text from verse 18 through 23, we can see where Paul became a servant to all people. He saw the different situations and became as one of them in order to teach them the Gospel.

This reminded me of a young preacher, who went into the mission field in the 1950's, full of hope of reaching a small community with the gospel. He soon found that their culture and mentality did not match his. They

would not even talk to him because they felt like he was not "one of them." He became discouraged but was determined not to give up. There had to be a way to reach them. After much prayer and Bible study, he found I Cor. 9:19 to be the answer. Rising early in the morning, he went fishing with them; when the tide went out, he dug clams; he chopped his own fire wood; whatever they did for daily living, he did! Soon they accepted him as one of them. He could now teach them about Jesus. Some 65 years later the church that he planted still exists.

Let's all be a servant unto all men that we might teach all.

Words to Grow By

Service... Pass It On By: Katelyn Pesina

2 Timothy 1:5 reads “having been reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in thee; which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and, I am persuaded, in thee also.” This verse highlights the necessity of learning from the generations before us and like Timothy, I have been blessed with a mother and two grandmothers who taught me to love God and serve him by serving others.

The generations before us have so much to offer in terms of teaching us how to serve God and those around us, especially when our younger generation is more and more focused on serving themselves. In Matthew 25 Jesus says that on the day of judgement God will recognize those who cared for the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned. “...Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these of my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.” As we watch our mothers, grandmothers, and even great grandmothers we see that serving others can be as simple as making a meal or sending a note of encouragement. We have to learn to make it a priority or the blessings of serving will be lost with the generations preceding us, so serve and pass it on!

Getting to Know

Getting To Know... Val Lloyd By: Carol Tisdale



Val, her husband Steve, their daughter Julia, and 4 of their grandchildren recently moved to Austin from Chino, California. Although the Lloyds are feeling very blessed to have the opportunity to come to Austin to work and worship with us, they left behind their son Jim and his family which includes a couple of grandchildren who are dear to them and this has been difficult.

Val and Steve fell in love in High School and became engaged their Senior year. College was next but soon they realized what they REALLY wanted was to be married, so they dropped out of college, got full time jobs and married in 1972. Val was a stay at home Mom for a while but later became employed by the Dept. of Homeland Security as an asylum/refugee officer.

When asked about food she might be missing from California, even though we all know Austin food is about as good as it gets, Val said that she loves Mexican Food and although Austin's “Tex-Mex” is wonderful, Mexican food in California for the most part is the authentic food that any Mexican immigrant in California would make, and she misses that.

Regarding our topic of christian “service”, one of Val's favorite scriptures pertaining to this is Gal. 6:9-10 . *“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* She believes we were called by God to serve and if we don't serve one another we are first and foremost not fulfilling His will.

Val was asked which Upright Woman in the Bible especially impacts her and she offered up that it is Hannah. When she reads Hannah's story she is “impressed by her love for God and her selfless concern for God's people. At a time when she was heartbroken from not being able to conceive a child, she still prayed for others. And she didn't just ask God for a child, she promised that if God gave her one, she would dedicate the child to God for His service. What an example for us as women to emulate!” *Continued on page 4*

Because she was a preacher's wife for 37 years, Val can give us unique perspective. We asked her what it is that a preacher's family needs most from the members of the congregation and she said simply: "Love and support. We all need and want to be accepted as part of the congregation. Preachers and their families don't want to be put on a pedestal or in a fishbowl. We are willing and ready to participate and work together!"

Make me a servant Lord, make me like you
For you are a servant, make me one too
Make me a servant, do what you must do
To make me a servant, make me like you

To love my brother, to serve like you do
I humble my spirit, I bow before you
And through my service, I'll be just like you
Make me a servant, make me like you

Open my hands Lord and teach me to share
Open my heart Lord and teach me to care
For service to others is service to you
Make me a servant, Lord make me like you

Upcoming Events

September 16th Adams Street COC Ladies Day Beeville, TX Unity in the Body of Christ Speaker: Lakesha Garza
September 30th Maud COC Ladies Day Maud, TX Living the Abundant Life Speaker: Cindy Colley
Tuesday, September 12th Southwest COC Ladies Bible Class resumes
October 14th Southwest COC Ladies Day TLC for the Lord's Church Speaker: Evelyn Bonner

About *The Upright Woman*

The Upright Woman publication is intended to educate, promote, and encourage the women of the church to strive for righteousness in every aspect of life. It is the mission of this publication to provide women an opportunity to study the word and share articles about various issues and topics to encourage us to be upright women in an upside down world.

"For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face." Psalm 11:7

We pray that with every issue and in every article all glory is given to God.