



Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

THE HIGH CALLING OF SERVANTHOOD

KEY PASSAGE: **Philippians 2:5-11** | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 20:26-28 | John 12:25-26; 14:11-14 | Acts 15:36-38 | Romans 12:6 | 1 Corinthians 12:7 | Ephesians 2:8-10 | Colossians 3:23 | Hebrews 6:10 | 1 Peter 4:10 | Revelation 22:3

SUMMARY:

The New Testament often calls believers “servants.”

The books of Romans, Philippians, James, and Second Peter all begin with references to the writers being servants or bondservants of the Lord Jesus Christ. These early church leaders were following the example of our Savior, who was equal with God but humbled Himself and became a man (Phil. 2:5-11). In spite of His popularity, Christ never sought earthly power or position. Our Lord remained committed to offering Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Jesus told His disciples, “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave” (Matt. 20:26-27).

Unfortunately, most Christians aren’t interested in being servants. Our thoughts, actions, and even our prayers center around fulfilling *our* desires. Instead of serving others, we fight for the highest position or the most impressive title.

The Bible clearly teaches that the way to true greatness is through serving Christ (John 12:26). We do that by genuinely and lovingly caring for other people. Biblical service can be defined as *a loving act performed in the power of the Holy Spirit to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of those around us*. Each of us must stop focusing on ourselves and generously meet the needs of others. If we do this without expecting recognition from people, Scripture promises that the Father will honor us.

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

Servanthood is God’s work for every single believer.

All our actions should reflect the fact that Jesus is not only our Savior but the master of our lives. The apostle Paul called himself a bondservant—the slave with the lowest position in the house, whose tasks included washing the feet of any visitors to the home. James also called himself a bondservant. Although these men were leaders in the early church, they weren’t concerned with titles but with serving their Savior.

Salvation means more than forgiveness and the assurance of heaven; it means we are now servants of the living God. By actively serving Him here on earth, we are preparing for eternity with the Lord (Rev. 22:3).

It is how God carries out His work.

In John 14:11-14, Jesus told His disciples that they would do even greater works than He. Does that mean a human can do something more significant than Christ’s death on the cross? No. But the Great Commission—to take the gospel to every living creature—is an impossible task, humanly speaking. It can only be fulfilled because the Holy Spirit equips us to share the message of salvation with the entire world.

None of us know our maximum potential as followers of Christ. As we surrender our lives to the service of the most high God, He will honor our lives with true greatness.

Servantood is essential to a believer's spiritual growth.

If you are not serving God in some fashion, you are not maturing spiritually. In every church, there are people who have talents, skills, or gifts but never use them for the work of the Lord. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." We are not saved merely to be freed from guilt and sin but so that we will serve the Lord and others.

We should humbly seek to serve people with the attitude Christ had. Even when our giving is overlooked or taken for granted by everyone, our heavenly Father notices. Hebrews 6:10 says, "God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints." He will reward us for blessing other people.

It is the purpose for spiritual gifts.

Every believer has one or more spiritual gifts, and we are to use them to serve the body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10). That same attitude of humble service should extend outside the church as well. You may know people at work who are going through difficulty and hardship. Ask them, "Is there some way I can help? How can I serve you?" Opportunities to assist others are everywhere.

It is no assurance against conflict.

An attitude of service does not guarantee we will enjoy harmonious relationships. Paul and Barnabas disagreed about whether or not to take John Mark with them on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-38).

Those who serve the Lord aren't always popular. Some people may not like you, or they may falsely accuse you. When that happens, concentrate on maintaining a servant spirit and allow the Lord to handle the unfair criticism.

And don't leave a job or ministry position unless He tells you it's time to leave. Sometimes, the Lord will call you to stay where you are. Make a conscious choice to serve in that place no matter what. Genuine servants don't run when there is conflict.

To get through a difficult situation, remember that serving God means allowing Him to work in and through you—not striving to serve Him in your own strength. Also, whatever your job is, keep in mind that you are working for the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 3:23). Finally, those who want to put God first must let go of selfishness. If you angrily decide to walk away from a position, you are serving yourself. Serving God means obeying His commands and trusting Him to take care of you despite hardship.

CONCLUSION:

Greatness is not found in a title, a salary, or a position of influence. True greatness is found in servanthood. We must be willing to seek the best for others rather than for ourselves. Jesus said, "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26).

Willingly meet the needs of others without looking for recognition from people. God's Word promises that He will honor your humility. And when believers finally realize that our calling is to serve—not seek our own interests—then we will have an irresistible impact on this world and everyone in it. ✨



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