

Pendleton First Assembly of God

Opening: Walking close to God means living a life of service. No matter our social status, background, upbringing, failures, or successes it is our life of service to others that will be prized in the life to come. Throughout the Bible we see many great examples of servants to God. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Jesus, Mary, Paul, Steven. All these exemplified Christ in their humanity and took their place in the grand story of God. A Servant Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and is less taught and more caught. Today let us learn and receive the mindset of Heaven which is the “Servant Spirit.”

Key Take Away: The Kingdom of Heaven does not operate like the social structures or governments of earth. The last are first in Heaven and the lowest one is exalted. The authority is for service and not self-serving.

1. What have you done?

- a. **John 13:3-17** **3**Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, **4**rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. **5**Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6**He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” **7**Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” **8**Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” **9**Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” **10**Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” **11**For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” **12**When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “**Do you understand what I have done to you?** **13**You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14**If I then, your Lord and

Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15**For **I have given you an example**, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16**Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17**If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- b. Jesus set the world right again:** Washing of feet was a task meant for the lowest servant in any home. Jesus removes all self-ambition or lust for prominence in His disciples by showing the true path to greatness. ** More than a couple of times in scripture Jesus had to refocus the disciple's ambition from becoming great in the world's eye to serving great in His Kingdom.
- a. Life Lesson: The servant does not need a stage to obey God but our greatest service to the King will be done in secret for an audience of one.** ** When you feel forgotten, mistreated, or used in your service to God remember you are in good company with all the saints of God who came before you.
- b. Mark 10:43-44** **43**But it shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,**44**and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. ** Jesus wants His servants to be great indeed, but He redefines what greatness is! Think of how refreshing it was to hear this, as pagan emperor worship under the Caesar's of Rome was taking place. The masses serve the one but in Christ the One has bowed low in service of the masses.
- c. Our Humble Servant King:** The majesty of Heaven left it all in a rescue mission for humanity. Jesus flipped the world God side up when He took on the place of the lowest of servants.

2. Rejected at Birth: Born in a manger, hunted for murder, born to a poor family.

- a. The greatest became the least:** Jesus came with the heart of a tender shepherd, was ridiculed by the elite religious leaders of His day, and suffered the most painful and shameful death a person can undergo.

b. Before He Ascended He descended: Ephesians 4:8-10 8This is why it says: “When He ascended on high, He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.” 9What does “He ascended” mean, except that He also descended to the lower parts of the earth?10He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

c. After His death Christ descended into the lower chambers of the earth called “Abraham’s bosom” which was a temporary paradise for saved Old Testament saints and proclaimed the Gospel, so they could be washed in the blood and ascend with Him into Heaven.

3. The sin Bearer: 2nd Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

a. Our pure spotless Jesus received our sinful corruption to destroy its hold on humanity.

b. Life Lesson: Jesus the strong one of Heaven became a weak vessel to transfer His strength to the weak! ** The humble servant of God must learn and do the same thing, use your strengths to help those who are weak.

4. Our High Servant Priest: Hebrews 7:24-26 24But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. 25Therefore He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him, **since He always lives to intercede for them.** 26Such a high priest truly befits us— One who is holy, innocent, undefiled, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father **to intercede on our behalf.**

i. Intercession in The Greek: entynchánō meaning: To fall in with, to pray or intreat with, to make intercession for.

ii. Jesus will vindicate and pardon you at the judgement, pray with you to the Father and will intercede for you when you cannot. His service in helping you **has not finished** even though the work of salvation has. Christ will continue throughout eternity with a servant Spirit intercedes for other people in prayer and action and does not give up.

5. No one else is worthy, when we understand His worth we will appreciate His service more perfectly

a. Revelation 5:1-9 1Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” 3But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.5Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”6Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. 9And they sang a new song, saying:

b. The lamb of God is worthy Jesus the Lamb of God does not ask for the scroll, He takes it because it rightfully belongs to Him. Jesus is revealed as the only worthy one to redeem all things.

c. Why is Jesus’ worthy? He served and obeyed completely. He is the only begotten sinless Son of God. Jesus being fully God was also made to be fully man. He is the righteousness of God and the humble servant of Heaven.

d. Life Lesson: God has ensured that the earth will be taken from those who are not worthy of it and given to those humble redeemed servants who are. The greatest in the Kingdom will be the servant of God.

6. What is our Servant King’s intention? To give the earth as a gift back to His people, that we might worship God with it.

- a. Jesus has caused us to become worthy citizens in His Kingdom and priests who offer acceptable worship to God. We will reign in service to God on the earth in Kingdom to come. We will never graduate from being servants.
- b. The servant Spirit is not seeking its own benefit but the benefit of others. When it is convenient and when it is not convenient. The servant spirit will find a way to make it happen. It will not fail.
- c. **An innumerable number of angels proclaim:** Since the beginning the angels have watched the plan of God unfold. They encircle the throne and proclaim our Servant King to be worthy of it all! They have witnessed every moment our great King bowed low to serve a helpless humanity.

7. What the World needs now: A Humble Servant Church filled with The Holy Spirit that does what Jesus did.

- a. **A servant church** will take the low road to honor God and love its community. What if we could listen to the private thoughts of our unbelieving community about the “church” in Pendleton? How do you think the lost would perceive the church?
- b. **Put on Christ: Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- c. **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ** Our mission is to serve our community with the gospel through any means necessary. Ask the Lord,” What can I do to serve Jesus to those in need in the community of Pendleton?”
- d. **New Self, New purpose: Ephesians 4:24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- e. **Question? Would the world miss Pendleton First if tomorrow we were no longer here?** Would they notice if we stopped being the church? I believe in many ways they would notice; can we increase our engagement with our community? Can we increase our service to those in need? Can we do new things until they notice Jesus loves them?

Conclusion: This week, take stock of your life, your service to Jesus up to this point. Evaluate your motives and your pursuits. Stand all your life's work up before the word of God and see if it would stand on the final day. Ask God to make you a better servant. Ask Him to help you hear the assignments of Heaven and to fulfill them. The Holy Spirit himself will help when we are struggling in our service to Him. God will give us a great attitude and a right perspective.