

Servanthood as an identity, not strategy, is God's goal for His people.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." ³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ **For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"

Mark 10:36-45

Servanthood primarily as a strategy:

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, **"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."** ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ **So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

Acts 6:1-7

Servanthood as a strategy is a tremendous good, but a terrible goal or goal.

Dangerous ways of relating to people:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but **the disciples rebuked them.** ¹⁴ When **Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me,** and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

Many **rebuked him** and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ **Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."** So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

Mark 10:48-49

*Dangerous ways of relating to **God**:*

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**”

Luke 10:17-20

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**
Matthew 3:16-17

*Dangerous ways of relating to **self**:*

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. **“I have had enough, Lord,”** he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.
1 Kings 19:3-5

He replied, **“I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty.** The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”
1 Kings 19:10 & 14

*Deceitful ways of relating to **people, God, & self**:*

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles’ feet. ³ Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? **You have not lied just to human beings but to God.**”
Acts 5:1-4

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Mark 10:41-44

*Servanthood as **an identity**:*

For even the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

Servanthood as an identity means becoming like Jesus, *seeking to serve*.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

It tells *the truest story* of Jesus.

It keeps the right thing the main thing, *the glory of God & the good of others*.

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Mark 10:35-38

“God is most glorified in us when we are satisfied in Him”

-John Piper. Desiring God

It allows us to become the people & *leaders*, God intends us to be.

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v42-44

Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**.” ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

Matthew 28:18-19

*Cultivating servanthood as *an identity*:*

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” ⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:51-52

Crucifying the pursuit of *significance* & embracing the pursuit of *humility*.

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v51-52

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v36

“The humble person knows that humility is a decision”
-Crawford Loritts. Leadership as an identity

Receiving from God *before* we do for God.

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v 51-52

Doing as Jesus did for the people *along the way*.

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v 51-52

*Closing *Considerations*:*

Hands:

*Where are you *most* needed?*

*Where are you *most* effective?*

*Where’s the *margin*?*

*Where’s the *potential*?*