

Encounter Church
Sunday March 02, 2025

Serve
Servant Minded

INTRODUCTION: When you think of servanthood, do you sometime envision it an activity performed by relatively low skilled people at the bottom of the flow chart?

Sometimes we assume if we serve, others will lower their view of us. They will assume we hold the lowest position in the organization!

Think about the person who has served you more than anyone else in your life. Answers might vary but most of us would probably say, MOM!

Moms seem to be the greatest example of servanthood as they naturally serve the members of their family!

Do you have a lower view of your mother because she served you, or a higher view?

Most everyone would say a higher view!

Serving others has the opposite affect on people than what we might think it will.

People are drawn to those who serve sacrificially.

SERVANTHOOD IS NOT ABOUT POSITION OR SKILL. **IT'S ABOUT ATTITUDE!!**

SERVANT MINDED PEOPLE LOOK FOR WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM!

IN JOHN 13 THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD EXHIBITED THAT HE WAS ALSO THE GREATEST SERVANT OF ALL TIME.

When the disciples booked the upper room for the Passover Feast, they forgot to secure the services of a servant to wash feet at the door. It was custom for them to do this.

What's interesting is that when they realized the servant was missing, none of them volunteered for the job!

ALL THEY COULD DO IS TALK ABOUT WHO WAS THE GREATEST! (LUKE 22)

When Jesus sees all this happening, He stripped down to a garment around His waist. He even looked the part of a servant!

He takes a basin of water and a towel and begins to wash their feet!

SERVANT MINDED PEOPLE:

1. Are Motivated by Love to Serve Others

John 13:1-2- “Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.”

Jesus love was undeserved, unending, unconditional, and unselfish!

Love made him serve His disciples! Think about it: Jesus even washed the feet of the one who was to betray him!

Servant minded people are motivated by love to serve others!

2. Posses a Security that Allows Them to Serve Others.

John 13:3- “Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.”

Jesus knew who He was and He was secure enough to get down on the floor and wash His disciples feet!

He had nothing to prove!

The insecure are into titles! The secure are into towels!

Servant minded people have a security that allows them to serve others!!

3. Initiate Serving Others

John 13:4-5- “So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples ’feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.”

Jesus didn’t wait for someone to clarify protocol! He saw a need and met it!

No-one else had volunteered for the foot-washing job so Jesus did!

Servant minded people initiate serving others!

4. Receive Servant-Ministry From Others

John 13:6-7- “When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.”

A servant’s heart exposes pride in others! Peter had a hard time letting Jesus serve him!

Sometimes leaders must learn to let others serve them. Because they become so used to serving others, it’s difficult for them to relax and receive!

In this case Jesus was asking Peter to sit and allow the Master to serve him!

Servant minded people receive servant-ministry from others!

5. Want Nothing to Hinder their Relationship with God

John 13:8-9- “No,” Peter protested, “you will never ever wash my feet!” Jesus replied, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me.” Simon Peter exclaimed, “Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!”

Peter moved from one extreme to the other! He didn’t want to miss anything Jesus had for him. “Wash my whole body!”

If Jesus was giving away, he wanted to receive everything Jesus had to give! He wanted nothing to stand between him and his Lord, Jesus Christ!

Servant minded people want nothing to hinder their relationship with God!

6. Teach Servanthood by their Example

John 13:12,15- “After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

Jesus let them know that if the Master washed their feet they should imitate Him!

Actions speak more loudly than words. What they learned from Jesus that is something that could not be taught, it had to be caught!

Servant Minded people teach servanthood by their example!

7. Live a Blessed Life

John 13:16-17 - "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. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."

Jesus reminded them that they are blessed if they obey Him and His lifestyle!

The greatest blessings follow those who step out in faith and do the opposite of what the world is doing!

God blesses those who go counter-cultural and serve people with no thought of getting something in return!

THE RETURN COMES IN THE FORM OF GOD'S BLESSING!

SERVANT MINDED PEOPLE LIVE A BLESSED LIFE!

SERVANT MINDED PEOPLE ARE GREAT!

Matthew 23:11- "The greatest among you will be the one who always serves others."

CONCLUSION: Today we are giving you the opportunity to be great!

Sign up to be part of a serve team!