

Thinking Like a Servant

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus..." Phil.2:5 NASB

In my days at a Christian university, when a person fell way short of manifesting the mind of Christ, they were said to have a 'B.A.' meaning a bad attitude. What is attitude anyway? Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines it: 'a mental position regarding a fact or state; a feeling or emotion toward a fact or state.' So let me ask you...what's your attitude toward being a servant? Where is your mind positioned regarding putting the needs of others before your own? How do you feel about dying to self in order to serve those who may even betray you?

Let's exit the world of being waited upon and enter the arena of attending to the needs of others. How do you learn to act like a servant? Well, you must first think like a servant. Being a servant is always an attitude before it becomes an act. You see, true servanthood like Jesus cannot be faked or manufactured. Attitudes are not automatic nor are they dictated in life's job descriptions. They are chosen in the midst of life's experiences as we live and abide in Christ. Acts of servanthood may only be needed occasionally, but the attitude of a servant is needed continuously.

Now, take a minute and read Philippians 2:5-1 and then take note of how Christ gives us insight into how we can have His mind, His attitude, and all for His glory! Here are a few of Christ's thoughts:

- Serving is not subservient weakness but a saving strength..."**although He existed in the form of God..." v.6a** – being in the form of God is hardly weakness in any sense of the word. Christ intentionally chose the to be a servant! Oh, the saving strength of such a loving choice. What a joy to know that you too can make that choice!
- Serving is not about being insecure but secure..."**did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped..." v.6b** – What freedom there is when you live for an audience of One! No one to impress, only to love the One who loved you and called you to Himself. May nothing you have, be viewed as so precious, that you would not freely give it up if your Lord asked.
- Serving is letting go of your agenda, so that you can take hold of GOD..."**but emptied Himself... He humbled Himself..." v.7-8** – Serving is not concerned about preserving one's reputation, rights, time, or even life. It is not ultimately about pleasing the people you are serving. It is about pleasing GOD. Living solely for Him, so that if the only words you ever heard were, 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!' that would be gloriously sufficient.

Do you struggle with the idea of getting walked on, used, misunderstood or taken advantage of by others? Then welcome to the world of 'self-preservation'! Your reputation along with all your sin was nailed to the cross over 2000 years ago. Paul tells us in Romans..."**Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts.**" If you desire to live Christ, then you must realise that He is calling you to another realm. A place where the great are the servants and those who are first, are slaves of all. Listen to the words of our Master..."**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

John 13 teaches many things, but perhaps one of the most challenging is that of 'the basin and the towel'. These are the vitals 'tools of the trade' for every fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

It's now your serve!
