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issue #7

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## *The Serving Life of Christ*

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 NASB*

*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NASB*

When Jesus Christ calls us to become radical, self-sacrificing disciples, He gives us more than a reason to do so or an example to follow. To ensure such a radical call being realised in those He calls to follow Him, He gives us His life. The Master becomes the Servant and the undeserving [us] are fully provided for!

Jesus is saying in Mk.10:45...in your relationship with Me, I will serve you. I will work for you. Why does He say that? Because apart from Him, you can do nothing! You cannot drink His cup, you cannot endure His baptism, you cannot serve one another, you cannot become the slave of all; because fruit cannot be self-manufactured. To do any of this, you must "abide in Me and I in you". You must trust Christ to serve you. Abiding in the vine and being served by Jesus are the same thing.

Christ demands all of your life. He calls you to take on a lifestyle that sacrifices everything for the sake of serving others, Lk.14:33. This is not just hard; it is impossible...unless the Son of Man is serving you day and night. Jesus did not merely come as another teacher to lay out a set of rules for His would be followers. He came to forgive us of our sins, ransom us from guilt, death and the wrath of God. He came to give us new life with the power to die for each other in the service of love. This is what Christ does!

Don't ever try to earn God's approval by serving Him. Rather, humble yourself like little children and let Him serve you. He is the help that you need. He is the power you need. He is your helper day in and day out as He serves you by the power of His Spirit. This is the very heart of what it means to be in Christ. This is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion on the planet.

Our GOD is so full and so self-sufficient and so overflowing in power, life, and joy, that He glorifies Himself by serving us. This is why it is so humbling to become a Christian. We have to admit that we need help. We have to turn to Christ and say, 'I can't be or do what I know I am supposed to be and do. I am desperate. I need something way beyond what is inside of me or in any other ordinary person. I need you. I turn to you. I have nothing to offer in trade or purchase. I trust you to show me mercy, I trust you to provide me with all I need.'

When we do that, when we submit to Him in that way, Christ becomes our Servant. And when He does, all of His other radical commands are no longer things we do for Him, but things He enables us to do for others.

**The Christian life is a life of serving others in the strength that Christ supplies as our Servant.**

**READ ON**

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This truth about the nature of our God is not just unique to Christ in the New Testament, but we see the same is true of God in the Old Testament. Take for example **2 Chron.16:9a...**“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” Henry Blackaby comments on this verse by saying – ‘God isn’t looking for people to work for Him so much as He is looking for people who desire Him...it is then that God shows Himself strong!’

**Have you run out of steam? Tired of the same old same old? Ever feel like you don’t have what it takes to go the distance?**

Who or what are you relying on to do the ‘ministry’ you have been called to?

How can you tell?

What can be some ways that you can ensure a healthy reliance upon Christ your Serving Savior and Lord?

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