

## Section 4- Servanthood

### Introduction

To be a “light” for Christ, we must learn to humble ourselves and become servants like Christ did while on earth. Serving others is not so that we will be recognized, but so that others will recognize God through our actions. Mother Teresa once said, “Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.” By acting as Christ did, we are in essence preaching the gospel through our actions.

In this section, we will focus our attention on the example Christ set for us in servanthood and the role servanthood plays when letting our “light” shine for Christ.

### Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus

*Philippians 2:3-7- **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.***

For us to be effective at sharing the gospel, we must follow the example that Christ set for us by becoming a servant. Jesus humbled himself not only by becoming human, but also by his actions towards others. Matthew 20: 28 says that **Jesus didn't come to earth to be served but to serve others.** As followers of Christ, we should have the same attitude and the same mindset. Being a servant of Christ requires **a Conscious Choice, Humility, and Genuine Actions.** By following these examples from Christ, we can be a “light” in a world of darkness.

### **STEP 1: Making the Choice**

An important description of Christ in **Philippians 2: 7** is that Christ “**made himself nothing**” (vs. 7). He **chose** to humble himself and become a man, when in actuality He is the Son of God. He could have “made” himself whatever he wanted, but he made a **Conscious Choice** to make himself a servant to His Father and to others (Matthew 20:28).

***We also need to make a choice to intentionally serve others in all that we do. We need to make a conscious choice to serve our Father , God and to serve others just like Jesus did.***

#### **Questions To Think About....**

1. What are some choices I can make throughout my day to become a better servant?
2. When was the last time I made a conscious choice to serve someone else?

## STEP 2: Humbling Ourselves

Humility is not a characteristic that comes naturally to us as humans. That being said, it's important that Christians understand the role humility plays in being "light" to the world. **Philippians 2:3** says that we're to consider others better than ourselves. **Humility requires putting our pride to the side, letting go of any selfish desires, and giving them to God.**

One of the **best examples of servanthood that Jesus set was when he washed His disciples' feet at the Last Supper.** Read John 13: 1-17.

When the disciples came to the house they were probably wondering where the household servant was so they could wash their feet. They were probably looking at each other figuring out who would assume the servant's responsibility saying, "I'm not going to do it, are you going to do it?" Low and behold, their Master and Leader sat down with basin of water and a towel to do the job of a servant.

Can you imagine how they felt seeing Jesus doing the job of a servant and washing their feet? Jesus wasn't doing this just for kicks or just because he wanted to be nice. He was making a point to set an example of servanthood for His disciples and for us to follow. **Throughout the Bible, Jesus stresses the importance of humility, and servanthood, and challenges those who put themselves before others.**



### **Questions To Think About....**

1. Do I really treat others better than myself?
2. What are some ways that I can show humility to others throughout a typical day?
3. When was the last time I practiced humility?

## STEP 3: Genuine Actions

Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit." *Do* is a verb, which means "requires action." It's acting on the choice and the commitment you made to humility. But Paul takes it a step further by saying, "Do **nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.**" Jesus wasn't washing the disciples' feet for recognition.

This means while we're practicing being servants, we must not do good things just to do them. We need to recognize that the gospel is being preached through our actions. Remember what Mother Teresa said, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words." By acting as Christ did, we are in essence preaching the Gospel through our actions.

Part of being genuine in our actions is to not be proud and expect credit for the good deeds we have done for others. Simply stated, don't **expect** a pat on the back for being a servant. A proud servant doesn't exist. **After Jesus washed His disciples' feet, do you think he was expecting a pat on the back?**



### Questions To Think About....

1. What are some ways I can serve my friends, family, leaders and people in my community?
2. How can I make sure my actions are genuine and not just to make me look good?
3. How do I feel when I don't get the credit I think is due to me? Is that Biblical?

## What Would Jesus Do???

“What would Jesus do?” has become a cliché, but this phrase really does serve as a good reminder to us when thinking about ways we can be servants. It can also provide good opportunities for us to share the gospel.

**Keep in mind what you think Jesus would do in each of these situations: Then answer the questions below as a team for each situation.**

**Situation 1:** You see someone in church crying after the message was preached.

**Situation 2:** You see an person's house that is in need of repairs and has an overgrown yard.

**Situation 3:** You see garbage littered on the ground.

**Situation 4:** You see a mother struggling to push a cart and take care of her kids while taking her grocery bags out to her car.

- *What would you do if you saw this situation based on the examples of Jesus?*
- *What would be your response if the person was to ask, “Why are you doing this for me?”*
- *How could you use your testimony in sharing Christ with this person?*

## Keeping it Alive

- As a great teambuilding exercise, find a service project that your team can do together. It can be a project around your church, community, or for families within the church.
- Incorporate a foot washing ceremony for those going on the trip. They can either wash each other's feet, family member's feet, or other members from your church. It is an expression of humility and servanthood to one another.

