

To Be Served,
OR To Serve?

A person stands in a vast field of tall grass, arms raised in a gesture of praise or surrender. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the distance, a range of low mountains is visible under the bright light.

I Need To Learn

ITS NOT ABOUT ME

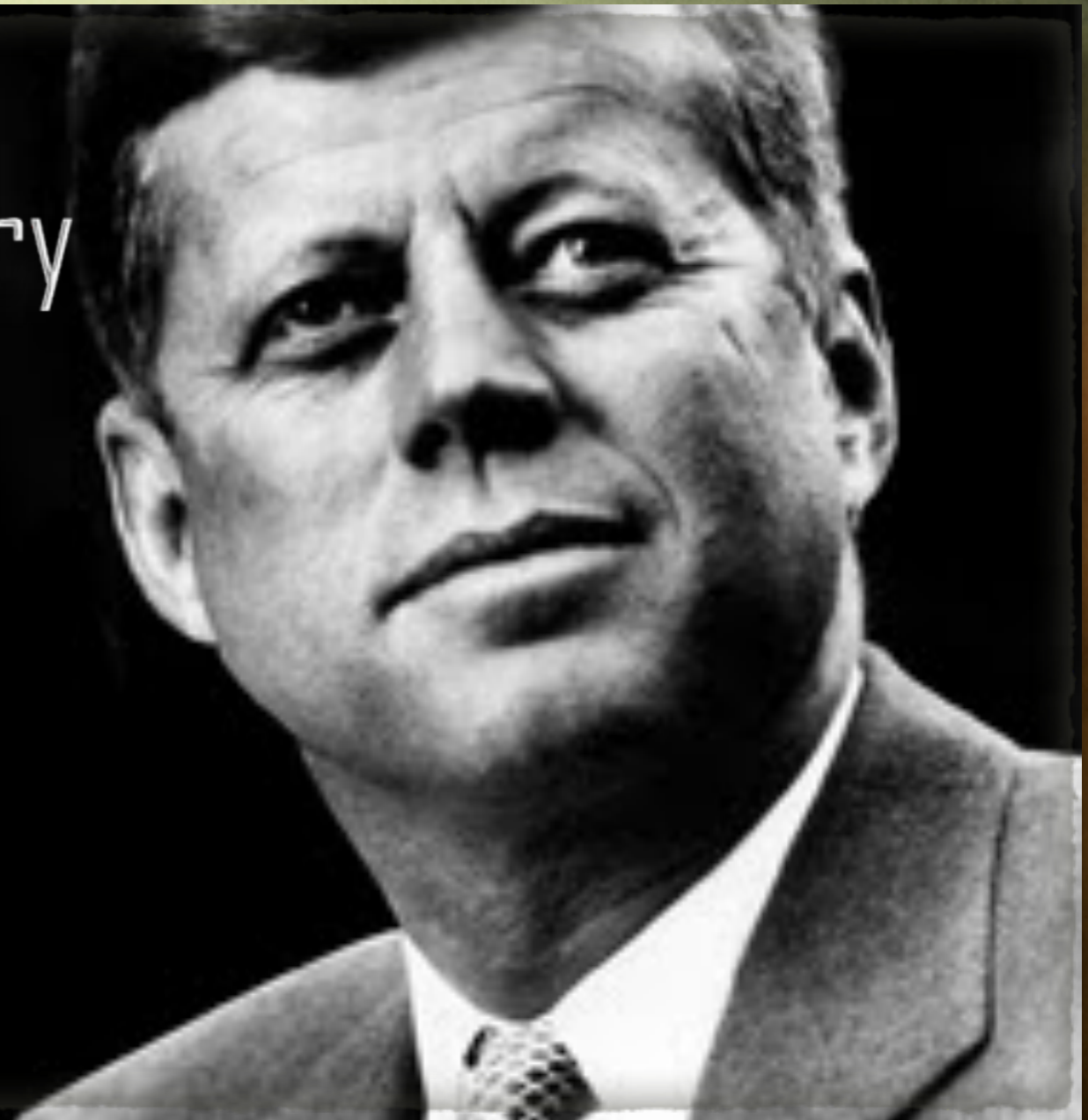
Matthew 20:20-28

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Our Attitude Relating To This Question
Effects Every Relationship . . .

"Ask not what your country
can do for you;
Ask what you can do
for your country"

Inaugural speech - January 20, 1961:



To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Our Attitude Relating To This Question
Effects Every Relationship . . .

With God

FAMILY

LOCAL CHURCH

Community



Matthew 20:20-28 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. ²¹ And He said to her, "**What do you wish?**" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered and said, "**You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**" They said to Him, "We are able."



Matthew 20:20-28 (NKJV)

²³ So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.

²⁵ But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.



Matthew 20:20-28 (NKJV)

²⁶ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Jesus - Our Perfect Example



- ◆ **Left heaven** – John 6:51;
- ◆ **Relinquished the glory He had in heaven** – John 17:5
- ◆ **Became a man!** – Phili 2:5-8; Heb 2:10-18; 4:14-16
- ◆ **Became POOR!** – 2 Cor. 8:9; Mat 4:2; 8:20; Jn 4:6
- ◆ **Suffered at the hands of cruel men & crucified!** – Isa 53; Mat 26:47-27:50; 1 Pt 2:23,24

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Jesus - Our Perfect Example



- ◆ **Obedient to His Father in all things** - Mat 26:39; Heb 5:8,9; 10:5-9; Jn 4:34; 6:38; 15:10; Phil 2:8
- ◆ **Taught others** - Mat 5-7; 14:13-21; 15:32-39
- ◆ **Healed the sick** - Mat 8; 9; John 20:30,31
- ◆ **Served others** - John 13:1-16

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Jesus - Our Perfect Example



John 13:1-17

- ◆ **Done with awareness of his exalted position (v. 3)**
- ◆ **Girded self with towel - dressed like a servant (v. 4)**
- ◆ **Act of a servant (v. 5)**
- ◆ **Purpose - show his work served humanity (v. 8)**
- ◆ **Lesson - we might humbly serve others (vv. 12-17)**

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

We Are To Be "Sacrificial Servants"



- ◆ (Luke 9:23-26; 57-62)
- * **Self denial** - i.e., deny selfish desires & thoughts of self exaltation. (cf. Mat 16:24-26)
- * **Cross bearing** - i.e., accept responsibilities & fulfill commitment to holiness no matter the cost!
- * **Dying to self** - i.e., putting to death pride & all sin - living for God & others -

To Be Served, OR To Serve? We Are To Be "Sacrificial Servants"



GALATIANS 2:20

(NKJV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

To Be Served, OR To Serve? Served By God? OR Serve God?



- ◆ God, to many, is like a Santa Claus or genie.
- ◆ God is many people's ultimate emergency plan.
- ◆ Many **ONLY** think of God when they are in need of something from Him.

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

We MUST Serve God!

- ◆ Because of who God is – Acts 17:24-31
- ◆ Because of what God requires – Ecc. 12:13; Jn 4:24; 8:24; 14:21; Rom. 12:1-3
- ◆ Because of who I am and what I have done – Ps. 8:4; Rom 3:23
- ◆ Because of what God has done – Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8, 1 Jn 4:9,10,19
- ◆ Because of what God will do – Ecc 12:14; 2 Cor 5:10



To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within Our Families



- ✦ Marriage is NOT for YOU! – Gen 2:18,21-24; Eph 5:22-33; 1 Pet 3:1-7
- ✦ Parents are to be parents, but fail their children when they do not “*bring them up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord*” - Deut 6:4-9; Eph 6:4
- ✦ Children to give respect and support to their parents - Mat 15:1-6; Eph 6:1-3

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within Our Community



- ◆ We are the salt & light of the world - Mat. 5:13-16
- ◆ We are to hold forth the word of life before the world - Philippians 2:14-16; Acts 8:4
- ◆ We are to demonstrate the “good and acceptable and perfect will of God” - Romans 12:1,2
- ◆ We are to do good to “all men” - Galatians 6:10

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within Our Community



- ◆ Submissive to government officials - Rom 13:7; 1 Pet 2:13-17
- ◆ Submissive to those in positions of authority over us - 1 Pet 2:16-21; Eph 6:5-8;
- ◆ Those in authority to give what is fair to those under them - Eph 6:9; Col. 4:1
- ◆ Love our neighbor - Mark 12:31; Rom 12:14-21; 13:8-10

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within The Local Church

- ◆ Many expect the church to provide:
 - * Entertainment –
 - * Recreation –
 - * Child care –
 - * Relief for social ills –
 - * Constant attention to ME



No Authority

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within The Local Church



- ◆ The church should provide you:
 - * Edification (*teaching; guidance; equipping for service*) – Eph 4:11-15
 - * Support & encouragement - 1 Tim. 4:3-16; Heb 10:24
 - * Discipline - 2 Thes 3:6-15

To Be Served, OR To Serve?

Serving God Within The Local Church



- ◆ Provide what you can supply, – (*giving, praying, leading, teaching, serving, etc.*) - 1 Cor. 16:1,2; Eph 4:16; 1 Cor 12:14-27; Rom 12:4-8
- ◆ Not hindering by murmuring, complaining, gossiping and ungodly living – Phili 2:17; 1 Tim 6:1; Tit 6:1

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Our Attitude Relating To This Question
Effects Every Relationship . . .

Acts 20:35 (NKJV)

*35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, '**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**' "*



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1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV)

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails.





MAKE ME A
SERVANT

OF GOD

IN MY FAMILY

IN MY COMMUNITY

IN THE LORD'S CHURCH

To Be Served,
OR To Serve?



I Need To Learn

ITS NOT ABOUT ME

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JOHN 13:3-17 (NKJV)

³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

JOHN 13:3-17 (NKJV)

⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." ⁸ Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹ Simon

Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!"

JOHN 13:3-17 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash *his* feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for *so* I am.

JOHN 13:3-17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.