

Notes on Service

- The cross is the sign of submission, the towel is the sign of service.
- Jesus voluntarily took the lowest role that was performed by a slave or servant.
- Jesus with the towel demonstrates an act that redefined greatness.
- It's easier to hear the call to leave father and mother, houses and land, than to wash the feet of others.
- "In service we must experience the many little deaths of going beyond ourselves."
- Service enables us to not chase after the rat race or the win-at-all costs mentality.
- The authority Jesus spoke of was not for personal gain or the manipulation of others, but rather was for the sake of others.
- "The spiritual authority of Jesus is an authority not found in a position or a title, but in a towel."
- **"More than any other single way, the grace of humility is worked into our lives through the Discipline of service."**
- When speaking on humility "to think we have it is sure evidence we do not."
- "Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service, and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like service, and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness.
- Desiring recognition is another form of the "lust of the flesh"
- Service in silence leads to humility
- When thinking about service our fear is "if I do that, people will take advantage of me; they will walk all over me."
 - This leads to the difference between choosing to serve (still in charge, see it as slavery) versus choosing to be a servant (available, vulnerable, voluntary servitude and freedom)
- Paul called himself a "love slave" in his freedom he chose to be a slave for Christ (we can equally say servant for Christ...but the original language was that of slave)
- Can someone "step on us" if we have chosen to be stepped on?
- **"To do specific acts of service is not the same things as living in the Discipline of service."**
- "It is one thing to act like a servant; it is quite another to be a servant."
- "Large tasks require sacrifice for a moment; small things require constant sacrifice."
- Service can also be seen in guarding the reputation of others.
 - "Guarding the reputation of others is a deep and lasting service."
- To be a servant we must also allow others the opportunity for others to serve us.
- We should always be offering services of "common courtesy" there is no reason to not be kind
- There is a service of hospitality
- There is a service of listening...love listens
 - We cannot be more anxious to give our answer than to hear what is actually being said
 - An impatient half-listening is an affront to the person sharing

- To listen to others quiets and disciplines the mind to listen to God.
- Service of sharing the word of Life with one another is for us all.
- “The fact that God speaks to us does not guarantee that we rightly understand the message. We often mix our word with God’s word: “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing” (James 3:10). Such realities humble us and throw us in deep dependence upon God. But we must not draw back from this service for it is desperately needed today.”
- “The risen Christ beckons us to the ministry of the towel.”

Self-righteous Service vs. True Service

1. Self-righteous service comes through human effort...True service comes from a relationship with the divine Other deep inside.
2. Self-righteous service is impressed with the “big deal.” Enjoys serving when it is a big task...True service finds it almost impossible to distinguish the small from the large service.
3. Self-righteous service requires external rewards (seeks applause)...True service rests contented in hiddenness.
4. Self-righteous service is highly concerned about results...True service trusts the outcomes to God.
5. Self-righteous service picks and chooses when to serve...True service is indiscriminate in its ministry (servant of all)
6. Self-righteous service is affected by moods and whims (too tired, don’t feel like it)...True service ministers simply and faithfully because there is a need.
 - a. “The service disciplines the feelings rather than allowing the feeling to control the service.”
7. Self-righteous service is temporary...True service is a lifestyle
8. Self-righteous service is insensitive...True service can withhold the service as freely as it performs it. (meaning that we can stop the service and offer whatever type of love is needed)
9. Self-righteous service fractures community...True service builds community.