

“The Master Principle”

Leading Like Jesus Series Pt. #2.

Mark 10:45 (NKJV) — 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) — 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Peter 4:8–11 (NKJV) — 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” **9** Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. **10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11** If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I. The Kingdom of God is built on a principle of MUTUAL SERVICE

A. Serving the Lord and serving one another is how the kingdom of God works

B. Jesus was the prime example for us

1. Even though He is God Almighty, the Holy and anointed one, He gave His life to serve the Father and to serve others

Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV) — 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,** and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

C. This passage is known by theologians as the “great kenosis” passage – the self emptying (2:7)

1. “He made Himself of no reputation” from the Greek word “kenoo”, ken-o'-o; to make empty, i.e. (fig.) to abase, neutralize, falsify:--make (of none effect, of no reputation, void), be in vain.

Philippians 2:7–8 (GW) — 7 Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. **8 He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.**

D. Some say He emptied Himself of His deity... that would make Him only human when He came to earth

1. Other's say He emptied Himself of the privilege of Deity, so that even though He was God He did not use His powers as God, but only worked under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
2. Some say He emptied Himself of His glory... the glory that surrounded Him and filled Him while in heaven

E. What is clear is that He emptied Himself so as to be able to serve

1. This is where it all starts... a self emptying

F. And the beginning point is "YOUR ATTITUDE"

1. If we are going to be used by God for anything, we must empty ourselves of self, so we can be filled with Him.
2. This is what is required if we are to lead like Jesus

G. And when one has the attitude of a servant leader, it is clearly evident

1. True Servant Leadership is not motivated by a desire for **POSITION**
2. True Servant Leadership is not motivated by a desire for **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** –
 - a) You don't need to be seen by others or acknowledged by others in order to continue to do for others
3. True servant leadership is not motivated by a desire for **ACCEPTANCE**
 - a) You don't do in order to gain favor or position or acknowledgement
4. True servant leadership is not motivated by a desire **TO FIND SELF WORTH**
 - a) The worth of God's servant is found in their relationship with Jesus and not in the things they do for Jesus

H. True servant leadership is motivated by a love for GOD

1. A love for His **WORD**
2. A love for **OTHERS**

3. True servant leadership is motivated out of a desire to be like JESUS.

II. Today I will focus on the Heart Principles of a True servant leader

A. Some of these principles are found in Philippians 2:1-4

1. Just before the great kenosis passage there is a wonderful passage which speaks to the heart about the motives of a servant leader.

Philippians 2:1–4 (NKJV) — 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2** fulfill my joy by **being like-minded**, having **the same love**, being of **one accord**, of **one mind**. **3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

I. Like Mindedness

A. This means having the same mind set as Jesus had

John 5:30 (NKJV) — 30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 6:38 (NKJV) — 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 4:34 (NKJV) — 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

1. No thought was given to personal gain or gratification

a) It wasn't an attitude that says, so what are you going to do for me if I do this for you.

b) What do I get out of the deal.

2. No selfish ambition can be entertained if you are to be a true servant leader of the Lord

3. If you desire to be really used of God, then you must have the same mind and motivations as Jesus.

4. What was Jesus mind set on when He came to earth... to **KNOW and to do the will of the Father**

5. His desire to please the Father was so strong that He said it's my food to do the Father's will.

6. In other words, this is what sustains me, doing the Father's will.

II. Same **LOVE**

Philippians 2:2 (NKJV) — 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, **having the same love**, being of one accord, of one mind.

A. Jesus demonstrated Agape love

1. This is a foreign kind of love to us
2. It doesn't come naturally

B. When we say Agape Love, what does that mean to You?

1. Covenant Love
2. Love of **CHOICE**
3. It's not a feely type of love, it's not eros
4. It does not consider the worthiness of the recipient
5. It is a love that is born out of the heart of the giver and directed by the will to the recipient, regardless of their worth or their response
6. Because I have received freely this kind of love from the Father, now I serve others with this same kind of love I have already received.

*C. Agape love is a love of **Commitment***

1. It's a love that can be counted upon
 - a) It's stable
 - b) There's security in this kind of committed love
2. It's not easily swayed by emotions or circumstances
3. All true agape love demands **SACRIFICE** = in other words, to live like this will cost you
4. to honor most commitments, it demands that I lay down my own rights and desired.

5. I must sacrifice my own wants in order to love with agape love

D. This is the kind of love with which Jesus served the Father

1. Sacrificial. Committed love = agape love
2. Paul says we need to have the “same love” as Christ does.

III. UNITY

Philippians 2:2 (NKJV) — 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

A. Being one in spirit and purpose = UNITY

1. The motivations of a true servant leader will always carefully guard the unity of the **BODY**
2. The true servant leader puts away the little things that can cause **STRIFE**
3. The true servant leader continuously checks the attitude of his/her own heart to focus on the “big picture” ... which is seeing others come to Christ, and to build up God’s kingdom in us and around us.

B. Strife is a tool of the enemy

1. If the devil can get us to pick apart one another...
2. If he can get our eyes off Jesus and onto the faults and failures of others, he will create division
3. And if he can cause division in the body, he can destroy the body

Luke 11:17 (NKJV) — 17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls.

4. There is a direct correlation between unity and **ANOINTING**
5. There is power in unity; there is weakness in division.

C. Unity of spirit and purpose

D. Same love

E. Same mind

IV. Esteem others

Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) — 3 Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

A. This speaks of having proper PERSPECTIVE

1. It's easy to see the shortcomings of others
2. **FAULTS** are easy to find in our brothers and sisters
3. Faults are particularly glaring in the leaders

B. However, when you focus on the faults of others it does two things

1. First, you become **BLINDED** to your own shortcomings.

Matthew 7:3 (NKJV) — 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

a) Once blinded to your own shortcomings you begin to consider yourself better than others

2. Secondly, you begin to **JUDGE** others as unworthy to be served and you begin to lift yourself up with pride, expecting to be served.

C. We need proper perspective... everyone is a special creation of God

1. We must guard our hearts from being judgmental
2. We must continue to humble ourselves before the Lord, asking the Lord to deliver us from our own shortcomings.
3. Let's remember there is only one Holy Spirit and you're not Him!
4. Nowhere in the spiritual gifts recorded in 1 Corinthians 12 will you find the ministry of criticism.

D. Rather, we are admonished to esteem others better than ourselves

1. It's exactly the opposite of the world's way...
2. The world says you need to work on your self esteem...
3. But God's word says you need to work on your "other's esteem."

E. One last thing in this list of heart qualities of a true servant leader

V. PASSION to serve

Philippians 2:4 (NKJV) — 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

A. The heart motivation of a true servant leader is one which wants to find ways to help others

1. Instead of self-centeredness, a true servant leader has “**OTHER** centeredness”
2. A heart that prefers others
3. A giving spirit

B. The concept is exemplified in John’s first letter

1 John 3:16–18 (NKJV) — 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

1. You can’t just walk by when you see a brother or sister in need
2. It’s a measure of our love for God by the way we love one another.
3. A true servant leader of the Lord sees need and responds

VI. Let’s close with looking at one more story in the gospel of Mark

Mark 10:35–45 (NKJV) — 35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” **36** And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” **37** They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.” **38** But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” **39** They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; **40** 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.” **41** And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. **42** But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **43** Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. **44** And **whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.** **45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

A. Here Jesus deals with the path to greatness in the Kingdom of God

1. Notice two principles about greatness in the kingdom of God

B. First - The Sovereignty of God is involved in our place of SERVICE

Mark 10:40 (NKJV) — 40 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.”

1. You cannot lobby for position in the kingdom
2. You must know that it is the Lord who will sovereignly place you in the right place to serve Him and His purpose
 - a) Some will look at their talents and abilities and say, “this is where I am best suited...” but know that the Lord will look beyond talent and ability into the heart.
 - b) He will place you in the right place at the right time where you can best serve Him

John 15:16 (NKJV) — 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

3. Know that you were chosen by God and appointed by God to the place where you will bear the most fruit

C. In the passage we read from Mark’s gospel, James and John, the brother’s Zebedee, wanted the glory of being next to Christ, but they did not realize the path to that place required a baptism of suffering

1. They wanted the crown, but not the cross
2. They wanted to be masters, but did not realize that they must serve

D. Not only is there sovereignty in your place of service, but there is also SUFFERING involved in servant leadership

Mark 10:38 (NKJV) — 38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV) — 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

1. There is great cost for those who are servant leaders in the kingdom
2. Jesus wanted James and John to see clearly what they had in front of them if they were really going to serve Him.
3. Followers of Christ do suffer
4. Eventually it cost James his head, and John would die a lonely death on the isle of Patmos.

E. To be a servant leader Christ requires our DEATH...

1. We must die to self
2. die to our own desires
3. be willing to die to our comforts and our comfort zones
4. We must relinquish all our RIGHTS so we can serve Him and His desires

F. The basic lesson to learn from Mark 10... the path to greatness in the kingdom of God is by way of servanthood and suffering

1. When some hear that serving may cost them something, they run
2. This kind of thing will challenge your motives today...
3. Deep down, why are you here today?
 - a) Is it because you have a healthy discontent for where you are in the Lord...
 - b) You know there must be something more to this Christian life and you want to discover it...
 - c) You sense a calling on your life and you want to do all you can to prepare for that calling and destiny that God has created you for.
4. Whatever the reason, you need to know that you have signed up for more than you were expecting
5. If you stay the course, God will take you through your own little mini discipleship school
6. He will test the motives of your heart

7. He will reveal hidden attitudes

8. He will challenge you to grow and stretch

9. I want to challenge you to open up your heart to the Lord and ask Him to help you see anything that needs dealing with so you can be used of Him

10. Invite the Holy Spirit to purge and cleanse and make you ready for service

11. There is nothing more fulfilling than being plugged into God's plan for your life...

G. When the Life of God is in you and flowing through you to others, there's nothing better...

VII. Let's pray