

The Spirit of Servanthood Leading Like Jesus #3

Luke 22:24–27 (NLT) — 24 Then they began to argue among themselves about **who would be the greatest among them. 25** Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ **26** But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and **the leader should be like a servant. 27** Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! **For I am among you as one who serves.**

Isaiah 42:1–4 (NLT) — 1 “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations. **2** He will not shout or raise his voice in public. **3** He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged. **4** He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction.”

I. We have been studying the issue of serving like Jesus

A. Preparing our hearts to be used by the Lord

II. Jesus is our example

A. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords came to serve

- 1. His leadership was so very different than that of the religious leaders of His day**
- 2. He spoke with true authority**
- 3. He taught by revelation knowledge**
- 4. His actions were so very different than others who had authority**

B. Throughout Jesus earthly ministry He exhibited what I call the “Spirit of Servanthood.”

- 1. He did not do mere acts of service**
- 2. He did not do good things just because He was a good person**
- 3. He did not have wrong motivations for serving others**

4. He was not seeking power, or position, approval or self-esteem

5. He was not trying to gain political favor or even the favor of popular opinion

6. He simply displayed and lived out the one essential quality for spiritual leadership... the spirit of servanthood

C. Last time we talked about the motivations of a servant found in Philippians 2:1-4

D. This session I want to share with you some of the essential qualities that are seen in one who has the spirit of servanthood.

E. In Isaiah 42 the prophet describes the coming messiah who would come to serve

1. From this passage we can learn about those qualities that are seen in a servant

2. As we look at some of these qualities you may see some areas where you are lacking.

3. You need to know that you can develop these qualities in your life through submission to the Master

4. As you yield yourself to the Lord and invite Him to work in your life, He will work these things into you

III. Let's look at these qualities in the spirit of servanthood

I. Dependence

Isaiah 42:1 (NLT) — 1 “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen/uphold...

A. To be a true servant requires total dependence on the master

1. Remember we studied in Philippians 2 that Jesus emptied Himself of all His privilege

Philippians 2:7 (NLT) — 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,

2. He emptied Himself of the independent exercise of His will

3. Even though He possessed all power and the privilege of deity

4. He became totally dependent upon the Father

John 5:30 (NLT) — 30 I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

B. The spirit of servanthood is seen in total DEPENDENCE upon the Father

C. What does that mean? How do I live this out?

1. Relinquishing your RIGHTS and privileges to Him

a) You no longer choose where you go, or what you do

b) You no longer determine how you will spend your money and your time without first consulting the Father for His will

2. Your motivations completely change

a) You lose self interest

b) Your primary motivation is to know the Father's will and do it

3. The spirit of servanthood requires total dependence upon the Father's resources

a) Why?

b) You can't truly serve without God given love... Without divine humility

Philippians 2:8 (NLT) — 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

c) You must not depend on your talents or education or power, or fortune or any of your human resources!

D. One key to demonstrating dependence upon the Father is PRAYER

1. In prayer I acknowledge my inability

2. I confess my shortcomings and failures
3. I receive forgiveness of my sins
4. receive a clean conscious
5. ask for specific guidance for the day
6. ask for power to love unconditionally
7. in prayer I seek the power to work the works of Jesus

E. My total dependence will be seen in my prayer life;

1. My independence will be seen in my prayerlessness

F. Two necessary elements in an effective prayer life

1. PRIVATE devotion

Psalm 88:13 (NLT) — 13 O LORD, I cry out to you. I will keep on pleading day by day.

Psalm 143:8 (NLT) — 8 Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you.

Mark 1:35 (NLT) — 35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.

2. Each morning, I dedicate myself to the Lordship of Jesus
3. I commit myself to serve Him and fulfill His will for my life
4. I confess my sins and receive the cleansing I need for all my shortcomings from the previous day
5. Each morning, I need to receive direction for the day
6. Each morning, I go to the well and get a drink from the river of life
7. I need to be filled each day with God's peace, and presence, and power... I get this filling by being with Him in my private devotion

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT) — 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

1. CORPORATE prayer

Matthew 18:19 (NLT) — 19 “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.

2. This is why our times of corporate prayer are so critically important for our church

3. as we come together in prayer we, as a body of believers, humble ourselves before the Lord

4. We are saying to the Lord, we need you to guide us and direct us and fill us

5. When we fail to do this we are saying as a church... we really don't need you Lord ... we got this covered

6. When we pray the Lord fills us and anoints us and brings life

7. When we fail to pray, we do it in our own strength

G. We will never serve well, in the spirit of a true servant until we become completely dependent upon the Lord

II. APPROVAL

Isaiah 42:1 (NLT) — 1 “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.

Isaiah 42:1 (NIV84) — 1 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

A. Jesus knew that He had the APPROVAL of the Father

John 13:3 (NLT) — 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God.

1. On several occasions He heard the voice of God the Father saying...

Matthew 3:17 (NLT) — 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

B. The approval of the Father gave Jesus CONFIDENCE

- 1. He was confident in His relationship with the Lord**
- 2. He never questioned the Father's love for Him**
- 3. There was never a doubt in His mind... He knew that nothing could ever stop the Father's love toward Him**
- 4. The Apostle Paul understood this and had the same confidence in the Father's approval**
- 5. By revelation he wrote...**

Romans 8:38–39 (NLT) — 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. **39** No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. Even though Jesus never failed in doing the will of God, He could have complete confidence to know that if He had failed in some way, He would still have His Father's love and approval.

- 1. When you know God approves of you, you have confidence in your relationship with Him**
- 2. You have freedom to fail... because you know that nothing can ever separate you from God's love**
- 3. Has anyone here ever failed God?**
- 4. Has anyone here ever missed doing God's will in some matter your life?**
- 5. We have all fallen short... we have all missed the mark from time to time**

D. One of the biggest weapons the enemy will use against you is to make you believe “God doesn't love you anymore...”

- 1. Or God can't use you because you have let Him down or failed**

E. My story... my call and backsliding

1. The biggest obstacle I had to overcome was believing God still wanted to use me
2. I had to find God's approval
3. I had to understand that His approval does not come because of what I do, but rather because of His grace toward me...

Jeremiah 29:11–14 (NLT) — **11** For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **12** In those days when you pray, I will listen. **13** If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. **14** I will be found by you," says the LORD. ...

F. Look at the people in the bible that God used mightily

1. Moses was a murderer and someone who tried to run from His calling after he failed
2. Abraham – the father of Israel, tried to give away his own wife two times in order to save his own life
3. David was a man after God's own heart... but he was an adulterer and then tried to cover his sin with murder
4. Peter denied the Lord three times
5. Paul persecuted Christians
6. All these men failed God... and all of them came back from their failures to glorify God in their lives.

G. How did they do it...

1. They found security in the love and approval of the Father
2. His grace is sufficient for you!

Romans 5:20 (NLT) — **20** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, **God's wonderful grace became more abundant.**

H. When you have the Master's approval this gives you confidence to serve

III. HUMILITY

Isaiah 42:2 (NLT) — 2 He will not shout or raise his voice in public.

A. One of the temptations that Jesus had to deal with in the wilderness, after fasting 40 days, was that of self-exaltation

- 1. The devil took Him to the highest point on the temple and dared Him to throw Himself off the pinnacle**
- 2. The temptation was to see if He would exalt Himself before all the city of Jerusalem**
- 3. To make a public spectacle of His power and Ministry**

B. The spirit of servanthood does not seek personal FAME

- 1. God's servant is willing to work behind the scenes**
- 2. They don't concern themselves if anyone really notices what they do**
- 3. They work, not for man's approval, or man's reward**
- 4. Many of today's servants are most concerned with getting the credit for what they do**
- 5. It's not enough that God knows, they need others to know as well**
- 6. Those extra things that we might do we want everyone to know so we can get the exaltation and applause and approval of people**

James 4:6 (NLT) — 6 And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Proverbs 16:5 (NLT) — 5 The LORD detests the proud; they will surely be punished.

Proverbs 16:19 (NLT) — 19 Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud.

Proverbs 21:4 (NLT) — 4 Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.

Proverbs 28:25 (NLT) — 25 Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NLT) — 14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

7. You can trust that God will rightly judge all our works...

8. If you don't ever get one ounce of credit or recognition here on earth you don't need to worry!

9. The spirit of servanthood is clothed in humility

10. Everything I do, I do as unto the Lord, not unto man

11. If I do unto man, then I will look to man for my reward

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT) — 31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (NLT) — 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Colossians 3:23 (NLT) — 23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

C. Dependence

D. Approval

E. Humility

IV. COMPASSION/EMPATHY

Isaiah 42:3 (NLT) — 3 He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.

A. God's servant will have a heart for the WEAK

1. failing men and women are always around you

2. We often say the church is a hospital...

3. A place where the wounded can come to be made whole and healed

4. It's unfortunate that many times the weak and fallen Christian is rejected by his brother and sister in the Lord

5. It is said too often, the Christian army is the only army that kills it's wounded

B. Listen to Jesus

Matthew 25:34–46 (NLT) — 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. **36** I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ **37** “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? **39** When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ **40** “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ **41** “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. **42** For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. **43** I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ **44** “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’ **45** “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’ **46** “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

C. The true servant desires to mend the broken hearted

- 1. The heart of a servant reaches out to the weak one, not with a self righteous or superior attitude**
- 2. The true servant realizes their own failings and desires to help the weak become strong.**

Galatians 6:1–2 (NLT) — 1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. **2** Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

V. OPTIMISM

Isaiah 42:4 (NLT) — 4 He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction.”

A. HOPE and OPTIMISM are essential qualities of a servant of God

- 1. As you face the powers of darkness and this world's system you must be able to see it as God sees it**
- 2. You have to know how the book ends and keep it in your heart**
- 3. The devil will do all he can do to keep you discouraged**
- 4. He will try and keep you focused on the size of the mountain**
- 5. He will make you believe that your situation is hopeless**

B. A great illustration of this is the story of David and his men from 1 Samuel 30

1 Samuel 30:1–6 (NKJV) — 1 Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, **2** and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. **3** So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. **4** Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. **5** And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. **6** Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

C. KJV = but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

- 1. David and his men returned to their homes in Ziklag only to find that the Amalekites had invaded while they were away.**
- 2. Their homes were burned, their families were taken captive – they had lost everything.**
- 3. They wept and wept till they had nothing left in them...**
- 4. Finally their grieving turned to anger toward David, their leader.**

5. They began to speak against him and say it was his fault that they were not their to protect their homes and families...

D. David not only lost his home and his family, but now his once loyal men began to turn on him...

E. the scripture says David was greatly distressed.

F. He was down and out, suffering the loss of everything that was dear to him...

G. But David was a servant of the Lord and His people...David could not/ would not stay down...

1. Reminds me of the story I heard one Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and two, I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give YOU two good reasons why YOU SHOULD go to church. (1) You're 59 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

H. A servant of the Lord just wont' stay down...

I. David encouraged himself in the Lord – How?

J. The true servant of the Lord knows that the devil is a liar

1. He will always try to make the situation seem worse than it is.

2. He will try to get you to worry and fear

3. He hopes to isolate you away from people of faith

4. He wants to overwhelm you and make you feel like you will never crawl out of the hole you're in

1. Like he did with Elijah

1 Kings 19:2–4 (NKJV) — 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” **3** And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”

1 Kings 19:10 (NKJV) — 10 So he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

- 2. After Elijah’s great victory against the false prophets of Baal**
- 3. After he called down fire from heaven**
- 4. After God consumed the sacrifice and proved Himself before all the people**
- 5. After all this, one angry woman puts fear in the prophet and he runs**
- 6. He gets full of fear and worry,...**
- 7. He runs and hides, and isolates**
- 8. In his alone time he gets discouraged and even into despair**
- 9. He believes a lie thinking he is the only one left**

E. The devil is a liar

- 1. Just because circumstances take a turn doesn’t mean that God has forgotten you or forsaken you**
- 2. God is still and always in control**
- 3. You belong to Him, and He won’t let you go**
- 4. Trust Him**
- 5. Jesus said...**

Mark 11:22–24 (NLT) — 22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. **23** I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. **24** I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.

6. Have faith in God

7. It doesn’t make a difference how dark it is, or how difficult the situation may seem

8. No circumstance of life or ministry will discourage for long the one who possesses the “Spirit of Servanthood”

a) Why? Because when you have surrendered yourself to the Lord, He not only bought you, He bought your problems as well.

b) If Jesus is Lord of your life, He must also be Lord of your problems

c) Realize Jesus is not worrying about that problem you are seeing in your life.

d) He is looking down from heaven on that situation, and He wants to give you the same perspective!

9. Pastor from Naperville building his church – flying in plane

10. According to Ephesians 1 we are seated with Him in heavenly places –

11....look down from there on all your problems

12. You are more than a conqueror!

F. Dependence

G. Approval

H. Humility

I. Compassion

J. Optimism

VI. ANointing

Isaiah 42:1 (NLT) — 1 “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.

A. All the other qualities can only accomplish so much, without the anointing

1. You and I need a touch of the supernatural

Acts 10:38 (NLT) — 38 And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

2. The same spirit that anointed Jesus during His earthly ministry is needed by all of God’s servants today

3. We need heaven’s touch if we are going to serve our Master in this world

4. People are searching for answers

5. They are tired of vain philosophies of men

6. they are hungry for the reality of God

7. His servants need His word empowered by His Spirit flowing through them

8. The only way to get the anointing is to seek Him with all your heart

9. Realize that you can do nothing of eternal value to change a person unless the Spirit of the Lord within you touches the person

B. Be in a place where you need the anointing

1. The anointing only comes for service...

2. God doesn’t give the anointing to you so you can bounce off the walls of the church

3. You have to be in a place of service... a place where you need His power... serving people in desperate situations

4. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up

5. Believe God for it... everything we get from the Lord is received by faith

6. Step out of the boat and begin to walk in it.

C. The spirit of servanthood is seen in these qualities

1. Dependence on the Father

2. Approval... being secure in your relationship with the Father

3. Humility

4. Compassion on the weak and less fortunate

5. Optimism... knowing how the book ends

6. Filled with God's anointing to do His work

D. If you are weak in any of these areas... God wants to give you an impartation so you can be His vessel to pour His life through you