

The Heart of A Servant

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Not only do good parents teach and discipline their children, naturally parents are also servants to their children. True servants of God are like that.

John 13:1-17 ... when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ... Jesus ... rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 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. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus responded, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this". Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus responded, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me". Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" ... So when Jesus had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 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. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them".

In that culture and time, washing of guests' feet was considered a lowly duty meant for the least (housemaids/servants). Today in advanced societies, we can follow Jesus' example by helping with various cleaning tasks, so another person can be relieved of such duties and therefore refreshed; any **helps** we can offer, so another person can be refreshed and relieved, and this must also be in the bringing of the **Water of The Word** to cleanse people and satisfy their souls/spirits. Christians certainly are in need of the continual cleansing of the Word because we pick-up dirt in this filthy world.

During Jesus' public-service, he was often teaching. He was known as Master and Teacher (Rabbi), yet look at His heart: Luke 22:27 "[Jesus said] Who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the one who serves.**" Physically speaking, Jesus often sat at the table (as Teacher) but He instructed and rebuked from a servant's heart (**selfless heart** of compassion, a broken heart, full of concern or deep care for the people). Occasionally, among His disciples, envy and arguments (concerning who is the greatest among them or who will be greatest) among them became very strong; during one of such arguments, "Jesus called His disciples 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. Yet it shall not be so among you, but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For **even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many**” (Mark 10:42-45).

For those who want to follow Christ, through His love He has called us to a **humble spirit** (a servant’s heart) which is actually produced in those who are receiving the humbling truths of **God’s love for us who are unworthy**. Even poor people love to boast about whatever they can boast about. But God wants us to live in truth/reality: we are nothing (even if the Christian is part of high-class socio-economically). Whether of low-class or high-class, someone who is truly receiving the truths of Christ forsakes the **pride** or mentality of “high-class”. God’s love extended to us who know that we are unworthy is what softens our prideful hearts into tender hearts of kindness and humility. Whoever is truly receiving the truths of Christ forsakes the **competitive spirit** and mentality of “i’m better than you” or “look at me, am i not cute?” Self is the most evil monster. It drove us out of the Garden of Eden. **Death to self** is not easy, yet that’s the only valid path (Christian way). While on this earth, a Christian must continually give diligence to: dependence on God-the-Father (His Love) and surrendering/yielding to Him.

2Corinthians 12:7-11, “And lest i should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest i be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing i pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in [your] weakness’. Therefore most gladly i will rather boast in my [physical weaknesses], that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore i take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when i am weak, then i am strong. I have become a fool in boasting, you have compelled me. For i ought to have been commended by you, for in nothing was i behind the most eminent apostles, though i am nothing”.

There are many people who are materially poor and unknown (servants), yet they don’t have a humble spirit (a servant’s heart). Although rare, there are certain ones who are materially rich and masters, yet they have a servant’s heart. Rabbi Nicodemus and Yosef of Arimathea were rulers in Israel (Pharisees), neither one of them was known as a sinner, yet when they heard the words of Jesus, they confessed that they were very poor spiritually and in need of the Saviour. On the other hand, there are many people who are known as sinners, yet they continue in their pride of turning away from the Saviour. When Scripture says “Christ came to save sinners”, it is talking about those who begin to understand that: in God’s sight they are spiritually poor and in need of the Saviour (even when the culture/society considers them righteous).

In Matthew 5:3-5, Jesus said “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn (concerning their spiritual condition), for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek (the humble), for they shall inherit the earth [in the end, not now].” Luke 18:9-14, Jesus spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I possess”. And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [cleared/forgiven] rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted [with God, not usually on this earth].

Mark 10:21-27, Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven, and come, take up the cross, and follow Me”. But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”. And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “This is impossible for human beings, but with God all things are possible”.

When the New Testament instructs the rich to sell all and give to the poor, it is not saying we should give our basic necessities too. We still need basic clothing and shelter. Christians still have to meet in someone’s house for fellowship. What the Lord is saying is this: We must be **selfless, not selfish** but living in thankfulness for the blessing of having been adopted by God, at the cross. It’s a privilege to be a Heavenly citizen (a stranger on this earth). That selflessness can only be produced in those who regularly wholeheartedly rest their soul on Heaven’s Guarantee. Earthly things and earthly glory shouldn’t have a hold in our lives. We must be living full of thankfulness to this ever-present King (the Creator) who has called us to dwell in His presence now and forever adoring Him (El-Shaddai - Genesis 17:1) the all-Sufficient, almighty God who cares for us.

Pride and trusting in earthly things including self, isn’t only a rich person’s disease. Those who don’t have earthly riches also have the problem of pride/self-reliance. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for those trusting in self

or earthly things to enter the kingdom of God. Jonah 2:8 “Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy”. 2:7 “When my soul fainted within me, i remembered the LORD, and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple”. Psalm 130:7 “O Israel, hope in the LORD, for with YAH there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption”. Matthew 18:1-4, At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “[Among us] Who is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?” Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven”.

Some preachers say: “Jesus died for us because we worth it”.

It’s very sad that people believe such Lies. The truth is this: Out of His pity towards us, the Saviour took God’s Judgment for us, not because we worth it but because no one can have peace with the Holy God except by His payment for our sins. 1Timothy 1:15-16 “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom i am chief. However, for this reason i obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show **all-longsuffering**, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

Many who claim to be Christian are mixing worldly ideas with scriptural wisdom instead of listening to Scripture alone. The greatest destroyer of true Christianity is Psychotherapy and Human Potential Movement which teaches you to believe in yourself, love yourself, increase your self-esteem, self-actualize, the power is in you, visualize, etc. Isaiah 14:13-15 says: “For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into Heaven, i will exalt my throne above the stars of God; i will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; i will ascend above the heights of the clouds, i will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

The example of Christ and His teaching is what a true Christian must follow. That’s the only valid path (Christian way). Philippians 2:3-11 “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or pride, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others than himself. Let each of you look not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [yet He] made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient [to the Father]** to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Shun False Humility:

Some people are known by society/culture as “humble”, yet their life isn’t according to this foundation of true humility: Isaiah 66:1-2 “Thus says the LORD: Heaven is My throne ... Where is the house that you will build Me? (The Most High does not dwell in man-made temples) ... But on this one I will pay attention: On him who is poor and of **a repentant spirit, who trembles at My word**”. According to the Jewish Scripture (Old and New Testament), those who are on the path of true humility take the Scripture as preeminent. Practically speaking, such people honour the Scripture (God’s Word) above any ruler (earthly or in the spiritual realm) and above any parent. Acts 4:19 “But Peter and John said to the leaders of Israel, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.’” Galatians 1:8-10 “But even if we [the apostles], or an angel from Heaven preach any other Good News to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now i say again, if anyone preaches any other Good News to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do i now persuade people, or God? Or do i seek to please people? For if i still pleased people, i would not be a bondservant of Christ”.

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