

Inspirational Thought—10/18/2024—Duff Gorle

I'm teaching this week on *Servant Leadership*, having read again recently about this form of leadership in the Harvard Business School daily blog. The Biblical text is Mark 10:35-45 with particular focus on verse 45 (NRSV): *"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Jesus is the ultimate example of *Servant Leadership*. Philippians 2 speaks of his coming in the form of a servant: *"Who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing."* The definition of being made nothing is becoming a servant—being made in human likeness.

Wherever there was a need, that's where Jesus was. Servants do whatever needs to be done. Servants serve voluntarily, on their own initiative. No matter who is chosen for a leadership position, the real leaders are the servant-hearted ones who live to serve and give, not only to be served and receive. We sometimes may forget that...

THERE IS GREAT JOY IN SERVING! I'll just list a few of the joys we can experience:

1. **Growth beyond self-absorption!** We all tend toward self-centeredness. Serving helps us learn to put others first—to be aware of their needs—to listen, encourage, pray, and provide help for others. Service increases our ability to live above our own selfish agenda.
2. **Empowerment in knowing God has equipped us to serve!** When you're prompted by the Holy Spirit to serve, confidently step up and do it in God's strength (Phil. 4:13).
3. **Becoming LOVE!** The best service to others is given through offering them unconditional love and acceptance. This means we must stop judging others. We accept that their worth and value has been instilled in them by their Creator. Regardless of choices others make, and how we may feel about their choices, their worth is not diminished. Healthy humility reminds us that the good place we may be enjoying in life is only by the grace and favor of God. No room for pride! Everyone needs love and acceptance. And it is a great joy to offer these to our self and others!

Kelly Willard wrote a little chorus that is more than a song—it's an excellent daily prayer!

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord help me lift up those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be: "Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."

Dear God, we know you and follow you as our Savior. Help us to know you and follow you as a Servant." AMEN.

