

Great Service

Scripture Reading — Matthew 20:20-28

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant . . . just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve . . .” — Matthew 20:26-28

Service is a self-evident spiritual discipline. The Son of Man set the lowest benchmark possible to challenge our ideas of authority. He washed his disciples' feet and willingly died for them. When we think we've done enough, remember Jesus.

In today's verses, we read of a proud mother intervening for her sons to get prime positions in Jesus' kingdom. "Whoever wants to become great among you," Jesus responds, "must be your servant." And basically being a servant can be summed up in doing whatever it takes for whoever needs it. Jesus went so far as "to give his life as a ransom for many."

We can serve in many ways. Jesus washed his disciples' dirty feet. I once witnessed a well-known Christian leader bend down to pick up trash on a retreat. Perhaps you mow an elderly neighbor's lawn, or just refuse to bear false witness against her. It's also a service to receive gratefully from someone serving you.

As we grow in the grace of serving, we'll find more opportunities to serve. We can know we're mastering this discipline when we find ourselves serving without a second thought. Serving will have become second nature. Then, perhaps, our neighbor will ask us why and we can point them to Christ Jesus. They may want to know him too—and that would be a *great* service indeed!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you served us by dying for us. Help us to serve you by serving our neighbors. Make us humble, we pray, in your name. Amen.

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