

CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE SERVANT

Mark 10:32-52

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: What/who is a servant? A waitress, a mechanic, a sales clerk, a store employee? In the days of Jesus a servant was a person who was "owned" by someone and did whatever his/her owner demanded. Often called "slaves." "Servant" is someone who tends to the needs of others in the best definition. If hiring someone, what qualities would you look for? However a spiritual servant would be someone who "ministers," serves others in the spiritual realm. How is a true servant of the Lord recognized? A true servant is recognized by the way he/she acts when he/she is treated like a servant. Believers are called "servants" of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. A TRUE SERVANT GIVES UP WHAT IS BEST FOR HIM/HERSELF

1. *Mark 10:32-45*
2. Jesus told His disciples over and over that He was going to be persecuted and would die on a cross.
 - The disciples thought that Jesus was going to set up His Kingdom.
 - Peter even scolded Jesus.
 - The disciples argued among themselves as to who was the greatest among themselves.
 - James and John asked Jesus to give them high places of authority in His coming Kingdom.
 - Jesus told them that if they wanted to be great, then they must be a servant and slave to all.
 - Jesus was going to Jerusalem to die but the disciples thought He was going to set up His Kingdom.
3. James and John were expecting favor from the Lord but didn't understand that it would cost them.
 - They thought all the people would bow to and accept Jesus as their King but instead He was spit upon, mocked, given a crown of thorns and hung on a cross.
4. Jesus did not come to be served, therefore it is wrong for any of His followers (believers) to seek to be served.
 - Believers should dedicate their lives in service to others, putting others interests over their own.
 - ***"...We have come to know love by this: that Jesus laid down His life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians..."***
5. Jesus chose to suffer unjustly for the sake of others, for the sake of the Gospel.
 - A true servant will allow others to treat him/herself unfairly for the sake of the Lord Jesus.
 - Why should a servant surrender what's best for him/herself?
 - A true servant wants others to receive first place and promotes them over him/herself.
 - It is not self-punishment but it is deliberately placing others ahead of him/herself.
 - If a true servant places others ahead of him/herself, he/she will be taking last place.
6. True greatness in God's Kingdom is found in the true servant.

II. A TRUE SERVANT LOOKS FOR THE BEST FOR OTHERS

1. *Mark 10:46-52*

2. A man came to Jesus asking what did he have to do to have eternal life.
 - After asking some questions, Jesus told him to go sell everything and give it to the poor.
 - The man was rich and refused and went away disappointed. He didn't want to help others by giving up his things/wealth.
3. A blind man called out to Jesus for help.
 - The disciples told him to be quiet and not bother Jesus.
 - Jesus called for the man (Bartimaeus) to come to him.
 - The blind man threw off his cloak which he used to spread on the ground in front of him so others could toss money on it for him.
 - He got up and made his way to Jesus.
 - Jesus asked him twice what he wanted Jesus to do for him.
 - Jesus healed the blindness of the man and told him that it was faith that healed him and he began to follow Jesus after that, leaving everything behind.
 - The true servant always asks as Jesus did, "what do you want me to do for you?"
 - There are no "strings" attached to a true servant serving others.
 - A true servant expects nothing and asks nothing in return for his/her service.
4. What do YOU do for others, totally free? Have YOU ever asked, "What can I do for you?"
5. Who is servant at YOUR house?

CONCLUSION:

1. Not everybody is a TRUE servant, not everybody is even a servant.
2. Most people want to be served and served immediately.
3. Is there someone in your life that could benefit from being served by YOU?
 - Why not ask them "What do you want me to do for you?"
4. A TRUE Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ puts others first and serves all who have a need that he/she can meet.
5. A TRUE Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ wants to imitate the Lord in being of use to others.