

Dec 12th 2005: Jesus came as a servant: Luke 22:24-30

Last week mentioned....one thought God wanted us to take...
That Christmas was the coming....of what ??

The thought today is.....That Jesus came as a servant.....greatest response of love...
Is to serve

This truth about Jesus coming as a Servant....came....as we sung....The Servant King

Jesus did not become a servant during His ministry
He entered this world as a servant.....and also as King
And in the Christmas story.....both are featured at His birth

Paul was to proclaim this exact truth.....some years later.....wrote in Phil 2:6-7.....

The Greek word for servant...doulos.....also means slave (most servants were slaves)
And when a slave was born.....in very humble surroundings.....normally...belonged to..

So the Son of God was born in a dirty stable.....no room

Yet the fact of His Kingship..... was not completely hidden
We find an army of angels proclaiming.....
And earthly kings bringing the young child....gifts that proclaim...majesty & mission

As a servant the Son of God came into the world...
and as a Servant He served the Father **Hebrews 10:5 tells us.....**

In serving the Father.....the Son rescued us from ourselves
He provided us with the way to receive...abundant...eternal....victorious lives
He said in Mark 10:45.....

What that meant for Jesuslived out a servant's life
He owned nothing.....so often at the beck and call of every person....nowhere to lay
In Matt 8:20

He also ministered to others...in the fashion of a servant

Remember when He washed the disciples feet....John 13:4-5 says.....

In the passage that we read from Luke 22.....we find His disciples arguing....greatest

That human failing of wanting to be better than someone else
Of not feeling appreciated.....unless others are noticing us
Giving us the recognition we feel we deserve

And Jesus calls them to embrace His example

And it's one that turns Societies values upside down....**For He says in 22:27**

But I am among you as one who serves

Then of course the greatest example of serving the Father....and doing so for us
Was expressed there in the garden.....when....knowing what lay ahead.....Jesus said
Father if you are willing, take this cup from me: yet not my will but yours be done

Such an expression of servant hood.....led to Jesus suffering a slave's death on

And when He had died for our sins.....He was buried
A slave's burial.....in a borrowed tomb

Yet His resurrection was a King's triumph over evil

(Passion....resurrection scene...)

Christmas proclaims loud and clear....that Jesus.....the SON.....entered...as a Servant
For your sake and mine

He offered Himself as a sacrifice.....so that we could be cleansed.....from all the rotten
And now He calls us to serve the Living God.....Heb 9:14.....

It is this emphasis on serving the Lord that comes out in that reading from Luke 22
Don't spend your time arguing over whose the best.....serve the Lord with gladness

In John 13 after He had washed...He said 13-17...

In John 12:23-26.....

**So even as at Christmas...we focus on the truth.....Jesus came as a Servant
We need also to think about the response.....our Saviour desires from us who love**

What gift would He....who became a servant.....desire from us

And the answer is....a gift of service in His place...to others

(This offering envelope reads....Whatever you do for me this Christmas, you do for Jesus)

**If we truly believe....that Jesus chose to enter this world as a servant....for us
Then we should gladly become servants too...in His name....to others**

And surely Christmas is the time.....when we deliberately commit ourselves...
To fulfilling an act of service for Him

What will you do for Jesus this Christmas

A donation in His name

A card sent to one who will receive few

A visit....a helping hand.....A gift that somehow conveys the message of Jesus

(I came across this true story of a 12 year old boy.....a Christian.....who wanted to do a service for Jesus.....Mrs Hilderbrant's gift Stories for a Kindred Heart p55)