

# Servant Heartedness

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My servant Caleb thinks differently and follows me completely. Num. 14:24 (NCV)

Servant hood requires a mental shift, a change in your attitudes. God is always more interested in why we do something than in what we do. Attitudes count more than achievements. King Amaziah lost Gods favour because "He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a true heart." Real servants serve God with a mind-set of five attitudes:

- **Real Servants are Self-Forgetful**

They focus on others, not themselves. This is true humility: not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less. Paul said; Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. When we stop focusing on our needs, we become aware of the needs around us. Unfortunately, a lot of our service is often self-serving. We serve to get others to like us, to be admired, or to achieve our own goals.

- **Real Servants Think Like Stewards, Not Owners**

They remember God owns it all. In the Bible, a steward was a servant entrusted to manage an estate. Servant hood and stewardship go together since God expects us to be trustworthy in both. The Bible says, the one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master. How are you handling the resources God has entrusted to you?

To become a real servant, you're going to have to settle the issue of money in your life. Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and Money." He didn't say, "You shouldn't serve both," but "You cannot." It is impossible. Living for ministry and living for money are mutually exclusive goals. Which one will you choose? Money has the greatest potential to replace God in your life. More people are side-tracked from serving by materialism than anything else. They say, "After I achieve my financial goals, I'm going to serve God." That is a foolish decision they will regret for eternity. When Jesus is your Master, money serves you, but if money is your master, you become its slave. Wealth is certainly not a sin, but failing to use it for Gods glory is.

How you manage your money affects how much God can bless your life.

- **Real Servants Think About Their Own Responsibilities, Not What Other Servants are Doing**

They don't compare, criticize, or compete with other servants or ministries. Competition between God's servants is illogical for many reasons: were all on the same team, our goal is to make God look good, not ourselves, we've been given different assignments, and we're all uniquely shaped. Each of us is an original. Real servants don't complain of unfairness, don't have pity-parties, and don't resent those not serving. They just trust God and keep serving. If you serve like Jesus, you can expect to be criticized. Your service for Christ is never wasted, regardless of what others say.

- **Real Servants Base Their Identity in Christ**

One of the most profound examples of serving from a secure self-image is Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Washing feet was the equivalent of being a shoeshine boy, a job devoid of status. But Jesus knew who he was, so it didn't threaten or bother him to do it. Only secure people can serve. The more insecure you are, the more you'll want people to serve you, and the more you'll need their approval. On the other hand, when you base your worth and identity on your relationship to Christ, you are freed from the expectation of others. You are freed to serve.

- **Real Servants Think of Ministry as an Opportunity, Not an Obligation**

They enjoy helping people, meeting needs, and doing ministry. They "serve the Lord with gladness." Why do we serve with gladness? Because we love the Lord, we're grateful for his grace, we know serving is the highest use of life, and God has promised a reward. Jesus promised, The Father will honour and reward anyone who serves me

**Albert Schweitzer said, "The only really happy people are those have learned how to serve."**