



Lesson Title: How Should We Serve?



Key Concept: Service is key to our identity as disciples of Jesus and to living out the greatest commandment. But how do we serve? To serve God requires humility and a total paradigm shift of the heart, soul, and mind.



Scriptures:

³⁷Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”
(Matthew 22:37–39 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: 1 Samuel 13:14; Matthew 19:16–22; Genesis 2:7; Philippians 2:5; Acts 16:25–31; John 13:8; Mark 12:30; John 4:23; Acts 9:1–9; Romans 12:1–2



Lesson Thoughts:

To serve God, a disciple must follow the greatest commandment, to love God and your neighbor. In Matthew 22:37 Jesus tells us *how* to love God: with all your heart, soul, and mind.

To serve God requires a paradigm shift of our heart. As disciples we strive to serve God with a heart like David. David was called “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14). David committed some egregious sins. Deception. Adultery. Murder. But David had a repentant heart that kept him turned towards God and his will. Humanity is selfish, and we naturally serve our own desires. But disciples please God with a humility, like David, that keeps our heart committed to God.

To serve God requires a paradigm shift of our soul. Our souls are the eternal part of our being. Jesus’ response to a young man who asked him about how to gain eternal life was to keep the commandments, to sell all of his earthly possessions,

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and to follow after him (Matthew 19:16–22). The tension between God’s will and our will in this life is demonstrated in this story. The love of his possessions may have cost the young man his soul. Disciples choose to serve God when we choose his heavenly will over our earthly desires.

To serve God requires a paradigm shift of our mind. An intrinsic trait of a disciple is to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). The Holy Spirit in us changes our thinking to reflect more of his ways and less of our ways. One of the greatest and most radical examples is the apostle Paul. He sought to kill Christians. But after a miraculous encounter with God, Saul became Paul who relentlessly served God until his death. He praised and served God everywhere, and even preached while in prison (Acts 16:25–31). Imagine that! When disciples’ minds are transformed by the power of God’s Spirit, no earthly circumstances can change the fact that we serve a good God.

It is only when disciples serve God with our whole hearts, souls, and minds, that we can serve others with humility. Jesus demonstrated the humility that all disciples must exemplify when he washed the feet of his disciples. They did not understand his act of service to them, but Jesus was clear about the importance of serving one another when he told one of his disciples, “Unless I wash you, you won’t belong to me” (John 13:8). Disciples serve God when we serve him and one another with humility, and when it is done with all our heart, soul, and mind.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What are ways we can serve with our heart? Our soul? Our mind?
- 2) What are modern-day examples of serving others with humility?
- 3) Like the rich young ruler, which of God’s requirements for you have you struggled with? Why?
- 4) How does pride affect the way you think about service? How does humility affect the way you think about service?

Next Lesson: Where Should We Serve?

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Read John 13:1–17. In this day and age, we don't normally wash each other's feet to show humility. What other ways can we demonstrate humility?

- 2) How does humility affect the way leaders serve?

Notes and Reflections, cont.