

The Life of a Servant

Our greatest desire at our Student Leadership Conferences is to help you see the A big picture. Several years ago I was in the city of Budapest, Hungary. We had been all over the city and seen some truly marvelous buildings. We stood in awe of St. Matthew's Cathedral, drove over a bridge constructed by the Roman empire guarded by four 100 ton statues of lions, and saw mammoth buildings constructed in the 12th century. All in all, I thought it was utterly spectacular until the night we went to a place called the Citadel which over looks the city of Budapest. There I saw the A big picture. I saw the whole city in one breathtaking, panoramic view.

This morning, take your Bible and view the A big picture. In John 13:1-17 we will see the life of a servant. It would seem that Christ washed the feet of *a//*the disciples. He then put on His outer garments and sat down again to explain to them the spiritual meaning of what He had done. He opened the conversation by asking a question. (The questions of the Savior would make an interesting study. They form one of His most effective methods of teaching.)

The disciples had acknowledged Jesus to be their Teacher and Lord, and they were right in doing so. But His example showed that the highest rank in the power structure of the kingdom is that of servant.

If the Lord and Teacher had washed the disciples' feet, what excuse could they have for not washing one another's feet? Did the Lord mean that they should *literally* wash each other's feet with water? Was He instituting here an ordinance for the church? No, the meaning here was spiritual. He was telling them that they should keep each other clean by constant fellowship over the Word. If one sees his brother growing cold or worldly, he should lovingly exhort him from the Bible. The Lord had given them an example, an object lesson of what they should do to one another spiritually. If pride or personal animosities prevent us from stooping to serve our brethren, we should remember that we are not greater than our Master. He humbled Himself to wash those who were unworthy and unthankful, and He knew that one of them would betray Him. Would you minister in a lowly way to a man if you knew he was about to betray you for money? Those who were sent (the disciples) should not consider themselves too lofty to do anything that the One who sent them (the Lord Jesus) had done.

13:17 To know these truths concerning humility, unselfishness, and service is one thing, but one can know them and never practice them. The real value and blessedness lie *in doing* them! Oh, how we desire for you to see the A big picture of the servant's heart, not just to do Servant things but to truly Awake on the form of a servant.

Take a few minutes to read over this statement of commitment by an African pastor who was martyred for his faith. If you are willing see the big picture and join the fellowship of the unashamed, sign your name below.

I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed.

I have His Holy Spirit within. The die has been cast. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I won't look back, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotion, or popularity.

I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded.

I now live by His presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lifted by prayer, and labor by His power.

My pace is set, my gate is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, and my mission clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, or deluded. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up, until I've preached, prayed, paid, stored up, and stood firm and unwavering for the cause of Christ.

until
no I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I'm spent, preach all know, and work until he comes. And when He comes to get his own, He will have trouble recognizing me. My colors will be clear.

I _____ am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I resolve that I am committed to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, to be changed from faith to faith and grace to grace until my life is Biblical and my character Godly so that when he returns I may be a part of the fellowship of the unashamed

(Your signature)