

The Loveliness and Grace of Serving

- I. **A servant's heart flows through us because of our relationship with Jesus. Jesus is our greatest example and teacher of how to serve in a lovely way (Matthew 23:1-12).**
 - A. God makes us more than Christians who serve. He changes us from the inside out to serve others.
 - B. Jesus' unique relationship with the Father shows us how we, too, can be empowered and tenderized to love and serve each other (Philippians 2:1-11; John 5:19-20).
 - C. We are not alone in our serving. Abba Father strengthens us through difficult times, and we are also made to do the same for others. "Could you not keep watch for one hour" (Mark 14:32-38)?
 - D. We can find a "joy set before us" for others just as Jesus did for us as He served us by going to the cross (Hebrews 12:1-3).
 - E. "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:5-8).

- II. **Serving is the best lifestyle on the planet.**
 - A. The heart of a servant is at rest and full of joy. The yoke of Jesus is easy, and his burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).
 - B. Humble service is the normal way to walk with God (Luke 17:7-10; Philippians 2:5-9).
 - C. Servanthood and likemindedness are connected. The result is a world that recognizes Jesus (Philippians 2:12-16).
 - D. There is great glory in serving. Jesus turns our water into wine (John 2:1-11).

- III. **Serving is the key to promotion.**
 - A. Whoever wants to be great must be a servant (Matthew 20:24-28).
 1. Serving those under us
 2. Serving those over us
 3. Serving for the greater good (Romans 14:1-4)
 - B. A servant heart always accompanies heavenly authority (Luke 1:34-38; Philippians 2:4-11; Matthew 25:19-30; Exodus 24:13—Moses to Joshua; I Kings 19:21—Elijah to Elisha).

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77 October 9, 2022