

**“Jesus—the Ultimate Servant”
July 6, 2014**

Mark 10:32-45

CORE: Jesus not only taught us how love and serve. He demonstrated it. He is the ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF A SERVANT’S HEART.

In these verses, Jesus demonstrates some of the most powerful components of a servant’s heart:

1. FOCUSED

(v. 32) “Jesus leading the way”

He knows WHO He is—and WHAT He is called to do!

- **Active—not passive**
- **Focused—not floundering**
- **Responsive (*to His Father*)—not reactionary (*to the crowd*)**

He was ACTIVATED by the clear call of His Father on His life!

NOTE: Jesus served, but He was not “subservient” (*to view one’s self as inferior*); though He washed feet—He was no “doormat”!

2. WILLING TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD

As Jesus led them toward Jerusalem (Mark 3:6- *“plotting to kill Him”*), there were very negative reactions to His leadership.

Those who followed Him: “Afraid” (*“seized with fear; put to flight, withdrawing their trust”*)

The disciples: “Astonished” (*“stupefied; dumbfounded; questioning His credibility”*)

Yet, Jesus was not tossed by the reactions of others, clearly summarizing His destiny—fully aware of their hesitancy to believe.

NOTE: His followers were keenly aware of the climate/circumstances. Yet, unlike the sons of Issachar (1 Chron. 12:32), they failed to discern what God was calling them to do.

3. PATIENT

**Persevering—but not passive!
(i.e., not quick to quit)**

James & John had ulterior motives—desiring to be among the most powerful people in the Kingdom (RIGHT- *seat of honor*; LEFT- *seat for intimate friend*).

They failed to realize (at this point) His Kingdom is manifested in HEARTS & LIVES (not palaces & thrones).

- Jesus did not acquiesce to their self-centered pressure
- Yet, He did not “write them off”—eventually both would come to unswerving faith (James- the 1st martyr; John- prisoner on Patmos)

4. WILLING TO SACRIFICE

“Cup” & “baptism” are references to His Cross—symbols of being “fully immersed in” His mission; no “second thoughts.” Being “sold out.”
“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (1 Timothy 3:12).

“Persecution” is the “persistent opposition to our devotion to Jesus.”

Jesus faced the fiercest opposition of the powers of darkness, rejection of family, even the betrayal of close friends—keeping His “face set like flint” and His “hand to the plow!” Living for something BIGGER than the moment!

5. (At the core) DEEPLY COMPASSIONATE

Essence of Jesus’ heart: “Not to be served, but to serve and give (My) life as a ransom for many.”

- The “Gentiles (Greeks)” viewed humility as weak—the “lowest of all human virtues.” Jesus made it the HIGHEST!
- “Great” (*mega*)- *to have significant impact*
- “First” (*protos*)- *Lit.- ‘before’; to have influence; set a new course*

NOTE: We won’t impact the world w/o loving and serving one another. Can be “right” on the principles—yet, off course on the way we treat people. i.e., RE: the Pharisees: “Do everything they tell you. But do not DO what they do, for they do not practice what they preach” (Matthew 23:3)

CONCLUSION

Philippians 2:5-8 TPT