

## “High Calling in Low Places”

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Our highest calling is to follow Jesus, Who went to a cross, and on the way, offered Himself as servant to those around Him. Jesus draped a towel over His arm, and washed feet. As those who are followers of Jesus, we find ourselves honored to serve those around us, not because we have to, but because it brings us joy. There are none greater within the Kingdom than those who willingly and lovingly serve.

But we don't always have the best idea of what we need to do to be a disciple. We sometimes think being a disciple means to be seen by others as somebody special. We begin to think of ourselves on a more important plane than everyone else around us. **We want to Be Number One!** But that's not exactly what Jesus sees for all of us. He really wants more of us.

As followers of Him, **Jesus wants us to be His Disciples**, and **Discipleship is Being a Servant**. Today we're going to look at what makes a Disciple of Jesus. **A Disciple of Jesus Serves Jesus**. To be a Christian means you're a follower of Christ.

You've got to ask Him to forgive your sins. You've got to have Him guide and direct you as you live out your faith in Him. You've got to ask Him to be your Savior and your Lord. In other words, you've got to allow Him control of your life!

To be a Disciple of Jesus means nothing less than putting Him in charge! It means following Him, and serving Him. Whether we realize it or not, all of us are serving something or someone. The question is who are you serving? Luke 16:13 says, *“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and something else.”*

Who's in charge of your life? God's the one who should be in charge. He's the one we need to serve. One of the best Biblical images of being a servant of God is found in Psalm 123:2, *“Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.”*

As followers of Jesus Christ, we're to wait to hear Him speak to us. Jesus said in John 10:27, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”*

Open to Mark 9. **A Disciple of Jesus Serves Others**. The great preacher Dwight L. Moody once said, *“The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but how many men he serves.”* We always have trouble with this – don't we? We want to be "served" rather than to "serve". We want to be first. We want to be in the front of the pack. The disciples had trouble with this too.

In Mark 9, Jesus and the disciples were traveling along the road in Galilee going to Capernaum and were talking along the way. You want to know what the disciples were talking about as they were walking along? Look at verses 33-35, *“And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”*

A little embarrassed of themselves, they didn't give Him an answer. But Jesus already knew what they'd been talking about. Jesus said to them in verse 35, *“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”*

Jesus takes our desires and turns them inside out and upside down. He says, *“If you want to be on the top, you must be on the bottom. If you want to great, you must become the least.”* That's God's economics! That's how things work in God's Kingdom!

On the night before Jesus was to go to the cross, He gathered His disciples together in the upper room. It was a critical night. He knew it, and He wanted them to know it too. Jesus surprised His followers and picked up a towel and began washing their feet.

Some of them protested that this was beneath His position. But Jesus shows that true status is found in serving as God values. When we're tempted to debate who's the greatest, we should look to where our Master hangs on the cross!

Open to John 13. Washing a person's feet wasn't the task of the one in charge. Not the task of the leader. Look at verses 13-14, *"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."*

**A Disciple of Jesus serves Self.** Listen carefully. I'm not saying that a true Disciple should be selfish. I'm not saying that a Disciple should be self-centered or self-absorbed. What I'm saying, is if you want to be a true Disciple, you need to have a healthy self-image, so you become more productive in God's Kingdom.

Listen to Romans 12:3 very carefully, *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."*

You and I are to do two things in this verse that answer the question "How?" First, **Not think more highly of self then you ought.** In other words, don't over-rate yourself. Second, you're instructed to **Think Soberly.** The Greek word for soberly here means to reason with a clear mind, and not to exaggerate or over estimate, but to look at things realistically.

Open to Matthew 5. You're not to puff yourself up nor cut yourself down! You're to look at yourself in a realistic way. How do you do that? You do that by looking at yourself in the way God looks at you! Look at verses 13-14, *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

These verses tell us that we have value and that we're to have an impact and influence on the world around us! Salt and light change the things they come in contact with. A little salt will change the flavor of food, and light will dispel the darkness, even if it's only a little light!

**God works through People, even Imperfect People!** It can't be perfect people, because there aren't any! We all have our faults and we all have our failures. You and I have all have sinned and come short of the glory of God! But that doesn't mean that God can't use you and me to His glory and to His honor!

Listen to Mark 9:36-37, *"And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."*

Jesus emphasizes service and humility. Even though the child seemed insignificant, he was treasured and connected to Jesus. Jesus treasures you as His disciple. He asks you to follow His example and humble yourself and serve all!