

We are looking at areas of growth and maturity for a Jesus Follower.

Today, look at this piece of the puzzle:

A growing and maturing lifestyle of servanthood

The topic of servanthood could be one of the primary concepts that confuse non-Christians the most. The world tells us to look out for number one, to do what you must to get ahead regardless of who you step on along the way. Watch "reality" TV, and you get a lesson in selfishness. Manipulative and cunning people are applauded in our society as long as they don't "hurt" anyone in the process. Amid a selfish society, the servant principles of Jesus stand out in stark contrast to the cultural norms. As a Jesus Follower, it is a never-ending battle to combat our selfish tendencies. Biblical discipleship not only helps foster a foundation of servanthood in the lives of others but models it.

To be a follower of Jesus means you are expected to be a servant. In His economy, we gain when we choose to be a servant. If we insist on holding on to our "rights" and operate in selfishness, we will slowly sap the supernatural power of God from our lives. Even though the world doesn't work like this, we belong to God's kingdom, and we need to follow His ways.

Matthew 16:24,25 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."*

A sign of success in our society is to have others serve you. The more successful you are, the less you need to do for others. The power of Christianity is the power of servanthood. When we are able to die to our selfishness, we are able to rise to true Kingdom "greatness".

Matthew 20:26,27 *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave*

To develop into the kind of people God wants us to be, we need to put on different filters with which to view life. We need to adjust the way we perceive our role on this planet. We need to understand that God placed us on the earth to serve Him and therefore others.

1 Corinthians 10:24 *Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.*

For most of us, if we are able to raise people up to our level, we are doing an extraordinary thing. We have accomplished a noble act by looking at others as equals to ourselves. God says that He wants us to take a step beyond that and

consider others better than us...something that can only be done by the grace of God through the power of His Spirit.

Philippians 2:3,4 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

Hale Pule Question:

As you meditate on the verses above, ask the Father to show you ways you can reflect the servant heart of Jesus in the various areas of your life:

Home

Work

School (if applicable)

Friends

Neighborhood

Hobbies

Other areas