

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 9

Relationship Goal #2: Service

- I. Tabitha, arise!
 - A. Acts 9:36-43 has always surprised me.
 - 1. Stephen was stoned in Acts 8. In Acts 12, James was executed.
 - 2. However, in Acts 9, in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha died and immediately an apostle was sent for. She was raised from the dead!
 - B. What's up with that? She was a servant!
 - C. We might not think that her service was all that great. Like Tabitha, we need to do whatever we can, for whomever we can. We need to start with our family.
- II. A Family Full of Foot Washers
 - A. Some people miss the point of John 13:1-20.
 - 1. We spend so much time arguing whether or not we should actually wash one another's feet we miss the real example Jesus set.
 - 2. Historical context Foot washing was typically the task of the servant.
 - 3. It would never be right for the master to wash the feet of the disciples.
 - a. In John 13, Jesus turned the social structure of His day on its head.
 - b. Luke 22:27 is the parallel passage
 - c. Jesus said, "I am among you as the one who serves."
 - 4. Jesus, by every right, should have sat at the table being served.
 - a. Instead, He knelt before His disciples and washed their filthy feet.
 - b. He served.
 - c. He honored them in a way a servant would a master. He was the only one who was ever truly worthy of such an honor, Rev. 5:12.
 - d. No wonder Peter initially rebelled at the thought, John 13:8.
 - e. Matt. 20:28
 - 5. If Jesus could be a servant for these 12 rash, sometimes rebellious, fickle, ignorant, and blatantly disobedient men, how much more ought we be able to serve our family and others?
 - a. Keep in mind the night that Jesus washed His disciples' feet was the night He was going to be arrested and eventually crucified.
 - b. He knew when He washed the feet of Judas that He was washing the "heel that was about to be lifted up against Him." John 13:18
 - c. He knew full well Peter, the one who argued with Him was about to deny Him three times.
 - 6. Jesus washed their feet anyway. THAT is service.
 - B. What's the principal? John 13:12-15
 - 1. If the Lord could wash the disciple's feet, then the disciples ought to be able to wash one another's feet. That is, **if the Master could serve and honor**

the servants, then the servants ought to serve and honor each other.

2. This applies in the family as much or more than any other place.

C. Edwin Crozier says...

“Think of all the possibilities in our homes for service. Regrettably, when we think about serving possibilities in the home, we typically think about all the things everyone else can do for us. Remember, however, we are supposed to be the servants.

1. Yes, husbands, we are supposed to serve our wives, not sit on our throne dictating orders she respectfully follows.

2. Yes parents, we are supposed to serve our children, not sit on the sofa directing them to provide our every whim.”

D. What is a Christian definition of service?

1. A Christian definition of service revolves around the idea of **selflessly helping others in the name of love, compassion, and humility.**

2. Matthew 25:31-46 – Jesus talks about the final Judgment.

a. To **both groups** that Jesus said to Come or depart... Jesus said “...as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

b. We aren’t just serving that person... we are serving Jesus.

III. A Ransomed Life

A. Matthew 20:28

1. Jesus explained that he came not to be served, but to serve. He further described the ultimate service He would render. He came “to give His life a ransom for many.”

2. John 15:13 – Greater love

3. The catch of service? Service often means sacrifice.

4. Every moment we spend pursuing someone else’s needs and wants are moments we are not pursuing our own needs and wants.

B. When do we get our needs met? What about our needs?

1. Our needs may not get met.

2. ...isn’t that what Jesus did for us? Jesus came to the world to serve and He was crucified for it. He made Himself vulnerable for us.

C. Luke 12:42-48

1. No one was ever condemned to hell for being taken advantage of.

2. The servant who quit serving but started demanding service and abusing his fellow servants was cast into our darkness when the true master returned.

D. However, I believe we can confidently say in most cases, if one person in a family will actually start to ransom their own lives for their family, then the rest will follow suit.

IV. Today’s Response

A. Find out one thing each member of your family would like you to do on a regular basis to serve them. Schedule it and do it.

B. Why is Jesus’ service to His disciples and to us so amazing? What does that service mean to you? What do you think your service will mean to others?