

How To Develop The Spirit Of A Servant No. 297

Introduction.

I. Some years ago a school teacher asked her class of first graders to draw a picture of something they were thankful for. She did not think these little children from poor neighborhoods actually had much to be thankful for. But she thought that most of them would draw pictures of turkeys on tables of food. The teacher was taken back with the picture one little boy named Douglas handed in a simple childish drawn hand. But whose hand? The class was captivated by the abstract image. One child said, "I think it must be the hand of God who brings us food. Another said, "A farmer because he grows the turkeys." Finally when the others were back at work the teacher bent over the Douglas's desk and asked whose hand it was. The boy answered, "It's your hand, teacher." She recalled that frequently at recess she had taken Douglas, a scrubby, deserted child, by the hand. She often did that with the children. But it meant so much to Douglas. Out of all the things he could have been thankful for, he was most thankful for his teacher's hand. Perhaps from this story we can learn a valuable lesson. We learn that one of the most important things that we can give someone is a hand that reaches out to them with the love of Christ. We learn the value and power of serving others. We learn our real mission in life.

II. We sometimes sing this song,

Make me a servant, humbly and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**Kelly Willard**

III. Once the mother of James and John came to Jesus. (Matt. 20:20, 21).

A. Jesus responded. (Matt. 20:22-24).

B. Our Lord then spoke these words about greatness. (Matt. 20:25-28).

25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 6 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 7 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 8 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. "

III. Jesus is very precise about our to achieve true greatness.

A. We are not great because of our education or wealth or achievements.

1. We become great by walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

2. We become great by serving others as Jesus did.

B. At this time I would like to speak on “How To Develop The Spirit Of A Servant.”

I. **Serving With Absolute Obedience** - We develop the spirit of a servant by serving with absolute obedience.

A. It is not the place of the servant to rule or question the master.

B. It is not the place of the servant to do his own will, but the servant to completely obey the Master.

1. Jesus served in this way. (Jn. 5:30).

2. He taught we are to completely obey. (Lk. 6:46; Jn. 15:14).

C. Jesus and Mary attended a wedding feast together. Mary once spoke these words in reference to her Son to the servants at the wedding feast. (Jn. 2:5).

D. We must completely obey the Lord and we must obey Him from the heart.

II. **Serving Without Being Asked** - We develop the spirit of a servant by serving without being asked.

A. Jesus often acted to serve other people without being asked.

1. He raised the **widow’s son** without being asked. (Lk. 7:11-17).

2. Jesus **washed the disciples’ feet** without being asked. (Jn. 13:1-15).

3. **One writer wrote**, “The room was filled with proud hearts and dirty feet. The disciples were willing to fight for a throne, but not a towel.” (Swindoll, Improving Your Serve, Page 164.)

B. We have many great servants in this church who jump into action whenever there is a need.

1. They wash dishes and clean up after fellowships.	5. They are willing to prepare communion and greet visitors
2. They are willing to provide transportation for young people and others. (Viola Jones).	6. They are willing to visit and do anything that needs to be done.
3. They are willing to sit up with the sick,	7. They are heeding the holy scriptures. (Tit. 3:1; Gal. 6:10).
4. They are willing to take care of things like getting an attendance count or cleaning the baptistry.	8. It would be impossible for us to count all the good things done by God’s servants here and elsewhere.

III. **Serving Without Expectation** - We develop the spirit of a servant by serving without expectation.

A. Jesus served many people who could not offer him anything in return. (Jn. 9:1-6).

B. **True servants of God serve without expecting anything in return.**

1. God’s servant does not ask, “**What is in it for me?**”

2. He serves because this is what the Master wants Him to do.
3. **Theresa of Calcutta** was a tireless servant in the streets of India ... a place where the people were powerless to return the blessings she gave them.
4. **The Good Samaritan** was a servant without expectation . He helped the beaten man, got him a room, and offered to pay further expenses - and asked for nothing in return.

IV. **Serving Without Prejudice** - We develop the spirit of a servant by serving without prejudice.

A. Jesus served and loved people, no matter who they were.

1. He sat down with a **Samaritan woman** at a well and talked with her. Briefly explain what this meant.
2. He helped a **woman caught in the act of adultery**. Briefly explain what how Jesus served.
3. He associated with a **tax collectors** who were despised by the masses..

B. Jesus' servants expect to serve others regardless of their race or color or wealth or education.

1. Jesus spoke these words recorded in Matthew 25:37-40.

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

2. Jesus taught we are not to be prejudice against the poor or against the sick or against strangers or against those in prison, but we are to help them.
3. **Evangelism and service** flow to all men from the true servant of God.

V. **Serving In Humility!** - We develop the spirit of a servant by serving in humility.

- A. We must not serve like the Pharisees. What they did was always with arrogance. It was from wrong motives. (Matt. 6:1-4).
- B. Jesus served with the right attitude. (Phil. 2:5-8).

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1. Yes, Jesus was God's humble servant.

2. He humbled Himself in all things, even to death on the cross.

C. We must humbly serve as Jesus did.

1. We do not serve for recognition or for gain.

2. I challenge you:

a. To pray, "Lord, make me a servant."	d. To sacrifice some of your time and talent for others this week.
b. To approach our elders and ask, "What can I do to help the church?"	e. To do good for someone in a way that nobody else but you knows about it.
c. To do something that you consider beneath your dignity.	f. To do something good and do not tell anyone you have done it.

3. It will be a great blessing to you as well as others.

4. It will also bring glory to God. (Matt. 5:16).

VI. Serving With Energy! We develop the spirit of a servant by serving with energy.

A. Jesus never stopped serving humanity. He served humanity all the way to the cross. He served humanity regardless of the difficulty or pain. He is our great example of being God's servant.

B. We never retire from Christian service!

1. We are to work for the Lord as long as there is breathe in our bodies.

2. We are promised a harvest if we do not give up (Gal. 6:9).

3. Christian service is always in the present tense in the life of every disciple.

Conclusion.

I. We have learned is this lesson on "How To Develop The Spirit of A Servant" that we:

1. Serve With Absolute Obedience	4. Serve Without Prejudice
2. Serve Without Being Asked	5. Serve In Humility
3. Serve Without Expectation	6. Serve With Energy

II. To be a servant of Jesus we need to belong to Him.

A. We belong to Jesus by accepting Him as our Savior and turning from our sins.

B. We are then to be baptized and follow up baptism with a life of service to God and man.

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