

Serve Like Jesus - cont.

lector in Jericho, Zacchaeus, who wants to see Jesus but would rather avoid the crowd, climbs a tree to see Jesus. Jesus calls his name, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5).

There may be limitations to our having personal interaction, but we can encourage and help those who are able and willing to serve and who can make personal contact. We must see the importance of serving and how that involves the personal touch. Technology is great, but it does not replace the person.

JESUS WAS INVOLVED WITH OTHERS. The plan for Jesus was to come and seek and save the lost. Jesus was going to have to die on the cross for His blood to pay the demand required for sin. But before the cross came, Jesus would live a life and have family, friends, and acquaintances. He would love them, serve them, and teach them. Ultimately, He would die for them, not only for them but for those who hated Him and were His enemies. Let us look to Jesus and see His service to others, His compassion

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for others, and His love for others. Remembering how He was prepared to serve, focused on others, and the personal connection He made to serve. Think about: What can we do? How can we serve?

- David A. Cox -

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Guest Article: Learning to Serve Like Jesus

Matthew 20:28: *And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

As Peter described Jesus to those gathered at Cornelius' house, he said, "who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). Jesus came and lived a life as an example for us in how to live as servants. What principles can we learn from Jesus that will help us learn to serve like Him?

JESUS WAS PREPARED. As the Son of God, Jesus did not lack anything to meet the needs of those around Him. In the life of Jesus, we find Him moving to the very place or stopping His journey to meet the needs of people. In feeding the five thousand, Jesus traveled to a remote place but had compassion for the multitudes and would not send them away hungry (Matthew 14:13-21). As Jesus entered the city of Nain, there was a large funeral procession for the son of a widow. Jesus stops to console the widow and brings her son back to life (Luke 7:11-16). When Jesus was on a journey

through Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind man, cried out for Jesus. Jesus stopped and asked that the man be brought to Him, and He asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus healed Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). The examples go on and on of the many times Jesus showed His readiness to serve.

As disciples, we need to be prepared to serve too. Many times, we may feel inadequate to do something for someone. However, we must not let opportunities to serve pass us by because we may feel inadequate. If the need requires a skill or knowledge we do not have, serve by bringing others with the knowledge and skill to serve. We need to be ready to serve when the opportunities arrive.

JESUS FOCUSED ON THOSE WHO COULD NOT RETURN THE FAVOR. In Matthew 25:31-46, as Jesus is teaching about the judgment scene, He speaks of those who served and used themselves in life to help others. When Jesus mentioned the times they had served, He replied, "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke about

doing benevolent deeds, but not for everyone to see. Still, God sees them and will reward you for your service to others (Matthew 6:1-6). Christ served without expecting any return from anyone. Who could repay Jesus for His service to man by coming to earth? No one, and Jesus, did not expect it. He came to serve and glorify the Father, and that is what He did!

JESUS WAS PERSONAL.

Technology is a great thing, but technology does not replace the personal connection. In serving, we find Jesus making personal contact with those He served. After Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, a leper came and worshiped Jesus and asked for the cleansing of the leprosy. "Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed" (Matthew 8:3). Jesus made personal contact with the leper, something no one would have ever done. We see this in the conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well; the woman even mentions this, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (John 4:9). Again, the chief tax col-