

## *Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series*

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### **Title: *Living Above the Chaos, Part 4 – “Servant”***

**Instructions:** This Bible study is provided for personal or group use. Please copy, print, or share with anyone.

(Please note: this study has four parts based on the scripture in Matthew 25:21, 23 – “Well Done,” “Good,” “Faithful,” “Servant.”)

*“Give of your hands to serve and your hearts to love.” —Mother Teresa*

**Matthew 25:21-22** says, *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave [servant]. You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”* The slave could be trusted as he was given responsibility, resources, and then instructions on what to do.

**Slave/Servant** (Greek – *doulos*) requires a mature depth of character, in particular humility and security. Know that you are a “prisoner/slave” of Christ first and foremost. It must be modeled as a living example. This term occurs 141 times in the Bible.

*Doulos* referred to someone who was owned or controlled by someone else, not just a servant hired to do a certain job. Some slaves performed menial household tasks. Others, called “stewards,” supervised the work of lesser servants or managed the master’s finances. In the time of Jesus, some people were slaves because they were born to slave parents. Others were captured in war and were forced to become slaves. Some slaves were better educated than their masters and served as teachers of their master’s children. Slaves had no freedom, and their owners could do with them whatever they wanted, including selling them to someone else. After slaves became 30 years old, many would become “freedmen,” with duties to the former master and his family.

### **Observations**

- 1. *Jesus was referred to as a servant of God and man. He modeled it in life and in death on the cross.***
  - **Matthew 12:18** says, *“Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; my Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, and he shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles.”*
  - **Acts 3:26** says, *“God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”*
  - **Acts 4:30** says, *“While You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”*
  - **Philippians 2:7** says, *“But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”*

**2. Jesus taught extensively about being a servant and serving others. Often times in light of the disciples' wanting to know who was the greatest.**

**a. Serve one master. Can't serve God and money. Need a pure and undivided heart.**

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Luke 16:10-13 says, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

**b. First shall be last and servant of all. All are more important than you. Value others ahead of self. (See Philippians 2:3-4.)**

Mark 9:34-35 says, "For on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, 'If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.'"

**c. Jesus sought to serve not be served. Most powerful man in the world—a servant.**

Matthew 20:26-28 says, "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. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall 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.'"

Mark 10:43-45 says, "Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, 'You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"

**d. Jesus models servanthood by washing the disciples' feet. We are not greater than Christ.**

John 13:13-17 says, "So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'"

The master became the servant. The greatest and most high became the least and the lowest. In one stunning act, Jesus demonstrated that in the kingdom of God, service is not the path to greatness; service is greatness. Here the divine perspective shines through and appears to our disoriented minds as upside-down.

### 3. *Paul and Peter taught, modeled, and called their fellow workers bondservants.*

Galatians 5:13 says, “*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*”

1 Peter 4:10 says, “*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*”

- a) A bondservant of Christ is emptied of self and walks in deep humility before the Lord, faithfully obeying Him to the point of suffering hardship, humiliation, and even death if required. (Philippians 2:5-8; Luke 1:38, Philemon 1:1)
- b) A bondservant of Christ has a deep, genuine concern for the welfare of others. (Philippians 2:20-21; Colossians 4:14-13)
- c) A bondservant of Christ seeks to encourage, comfort, and strengthen others. (Colossians 4:7- 8)
- d) A bondservant of Christ strives to do the will of his Master, and please Him only, and has abandoned seeking after the praise of men. (Galatians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9)
- e) A bondservant of Christ does not promote or exalt self but promotes and exalts Christ as Lord of all, and views self as a bondservant of others to fulfill the call of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:5)
- f) A bondservant of Christ is not quarrelsome, but kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, gently correcting those who are in opposition. (2 Timothy 2:24-25)
- g) A bondservant of Christ sees his/her life of service as a grateful, dutiful, and loving response to God and not something for which he/she expects to be thanked by his/her Master, but rather rewarded for his/her faithfulness. (Luke 17:7-10; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:5-8)

### Implications

- 1. ***Serving in today’s world is at the heart of being a Christian in the real world.*** It is not about you—it is about valuing others more than yourself. It is at the heart of relationships. This is a paradox in a world that is self-promoting and selfish.
- 2. ***To be a servant, one needs a clear sense of “Calling and Purpose.”*** With this comes a clear sense of mission and focus.
- 3. ***Being a servant will require humility, faith, courage, identity, security, and love.***

### Applications

Serve at least one person outside of family and your current world. The service can be most anything, yet we suggest it have a timeframe whereby you can serve several times in order to meet needs, build a relationship, and be the light of Christ.

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