

Godly Servanthood
- Ron Stullenbarger -

“So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them’” (John 13:12-17).

When you hear the word servant, is anybody immediately come to mind? Perhaps you recall an extraordinarily helpful salesperson or that wonderful person at church who always takes care of every detail.

Godly servants are all around us, but sadly, we often take them for granted. This is a tragedy that we need to correct -- not only for their sakes, but for our own as well. I firmly believe that the faithful service of righteous men and women will bring untold blessings to those whom they serve.

For instance, Joseph story reveals a consistent thread: Wherever he was, the people he served prospered. Potiphar was certainly not a God-fearing man, yet even he recognized that prosperity came to him because of his slave (Genesis 39:2-6). A second Old Testament illustration is Daniel, whose service to Babylonian kings involved many things, including interpreting visions. (See Daniel 2, 4, 5.)

In both examples, powerful leaders were blessed by the actions of their servants; and more than that, they came away with an awareness of the living God. They also participated in the young men's success by offering them increased responsibilities and greater opportunities to serve (Genesis 39:1-6; Daniel 2:46; 5:29).

Find the people in your life who have the gift of godly service. Spend time with them, serving and working together for God's glory. If you turn your nose up at someone doing *“servants work,”* you will cut yourself off from a relationship that could change your life. Instead, run toward these people, stand beside them, and ask, *“How can I participate in serving with you?”*