

1. Jesus Came to Serve Matthew 20:28

A. As He is So Should We Be

1. **(John 15:13 S1)** This verse has two meanings for Jesus – He literally laid His life down to redeem us from sin and sickness
2. He, the Son of God, laid His life down as an Example of servanthood. He clearly teaches that true greatness is not as the world sees it, but in humble, yet incredibly fulfilling service to others
3. **(I John 3:16 S2)** Some will be martyred. This verse is basically teaching that as Christians we should, willingly desire to bless, help and serve everyone we can.
4. **Matthew 22:35-40** one of the Pharisees, who also was a lawyer asked Jesus a question, testing Him
  - a. **v39** ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ if you love people (with God’s love) you will serve them and count it an honor to do so; no greater feeling
    - **(John 13:34-35 S1)** the NT law is love; Jesus loved us and proved it by what He did; our love shown to others identify us as His disciples
  - b. **v40** the Jewish Book “Shema” is where this is from – loving God and people; God’s way has always been love
5. **Matthew 20:25-28** James and John wanted to sit on either side of the Lord Jesus in His Kingdom – they wanted to rule with Him; this was their idea of greatness; This tells of the ambition of J&J; Jesus is going to use this as an opportunity to teach His disciples and us some vital truths; disciples annoyed
  - a. **v25** the world has its idea of greatness – be in a high position and be served
  - b. **v26** Jesus completely contradicts the world’s idea of greatness; Jesus says greatness comes from sacrificial service
  - c. **v27** true greatness comes from serving others – it makes life worth living; the world may respect the powerful, but even the world ‘loves’ those who serve **(see Exodus 21:1-6 ‘bond servant’)**
  - d. **v28** Jesus proves this, notice the ministry of the Lord Jesus – God came to serve others
    - ‘minister’ deacon; to be a servant; to take care of; to distribute the things necessary to sustain life; to wait at table and offer food and drink to guests; to take care of the poor and sick; to attend to anything that may serve another’s interests – all inclusive meaning to cover every need others could have; love does this – Christians do this
  - e. since we are to duplicate His ministry – we also must minister to others **(John 17:18; 20:21)**
6. **(Matthew 10:24-25 S4)** the disciple should ‘be as his master’ what an honor
7. **(John 14:15 S5)** He couldn’t make it any plainer; obedience to His Word shows your love for Him
8. **John 13:1-5; 12-17** Jesus washes His disciples’ feet; doing this seems extremely important to Him

- a. **v12** He asks them if they understood what He had done for them; no idea spiritually
  - b. **v13-14** they call Him Master and Lord and He is (it is always proper to call Him Lord Jesus); if Jesus, being who He is not too proud to do the most menial of jobs – neither should we; He gives dignity to any work done in His Name; every person deserves dignity
  - c. **v15-16** He gave us an example – in attitude as well as action; since we His servants are not greater than He we should duplicate His ministry
  - d. **v17** knowing this does not bless you – doing the same does; constantly only seeking to be treated with kindness, caring nothing for others causes misery and unfulfillment
4. spiritual meaning **v6-10** washing your feet represents cleansing your walk with the Lord; we are completely ‘washed’ when we are BA – but our feet get dirty (sin) as we live
- a. local church – body; family; army – all of the analogies care for each other
  - b. people get out of fellowship with God (dirty feet) by sin; we wash their feet by:
    - never judging or criticizing them; encouraging them in the Word; to wash their feet you must get low – restore them in humility; call them; pray for them; ask about them if they are not there; treat them kindly (**Galatians 6:1 S6**)
1. **Matthew 25:14-30** parable of the talents – this teaches that all have been given something to do (**v14**); each given different number; the number given was based on their individual ability (**v15**)
- a. **v19** first order of business when the Lord returned was to settle accounts; we are accountable to God to use what He has given us
  - b. **v20, 22** both servants humble – acknowledged Lord entrusted them with his talents; they recognized the Lord as the legitimate owner
  - c. **v21, 23** rewards the same though number of talents different – rewarded based on what the Lord calls each of us to do and our faithfulness to do it
  - d. **v24-27** servant with one talent disregarded the stewardship he was given
  - e. **v24-25** he had a limited knowledge of God that leads to wrong thinking; he had his own perverted perceptions of God; he was wicked because he slandered his Lord’s character and he was slothful because he did nothing with the talent entrusted to him; if he was afraid he surely should have put the money in the bank to gain interest since the master would seek a reckoning; he truthfully had no real concern for his Lord
  - f. **v26** the Lord hates: ‘lazy’ do nothing, lethargic, indifferent; **v30** ‘unprofitable’ good for nothing
  - g. **v28-29** reward for hard work is more work; God’s work will be done; do not lose your privilege of doing it (the Millennium)
  - h. **v30** incredible remorse for not doing what he should have done (Renner/Bible Topics); saved