

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of April 21, 2024 A.D.

The Joy of Servanthood

The greatest joy of the Christian life is the personal experience of becoming more like Jesus. This "experience" is actually a process known as your "personal sanctification." How does this process work? The answer may surprise you. You become more like Jesus every time that you serve other people in the power and under the guidance of the Spirit of God. Let's talk about that in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Luke 22:24-27

1. Is it appropriate for a Christian to seek to be greater than other people?
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus was not a super-star. Jesus was a servant."
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "As a Christian, I should continuously seek and fulfill opportunities to serve and to meet the needs of other people."

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5

4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "If I do not routinely sense that the Holy Spirit is calling me to serve other people, I have good reason to wonder if I am a Christian."

Read Galatians 5:13

5. If a person is a Christian, is servanthood (a) an option? or (b) a requirement?

Read Luke 19:1-10

6. Zacchaeus was a tax collector for Rome. In your opinion, (a) was Zacchaeus well-liked by his fellow Jews? (b) did Zacchaeus have any unfulfilled personal needs?
7. In your opinion, why did Jesus single-out Zacchaeus to receive one-on-one time with Jesus?

8. Please identify the steps and/or actions which a person should take if that person wants to become more sensitive to, and more aware of, the needs of other people.
9. Jesus' visit with Zacchaeus occurred on his way to Jerusalem just prior to Palm Sunday. Would you say that, on that particular day, "Jesus was a man on a mission"? Why did Jesus stop and spend time with Zacchaeus?
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "At all times (even at the drop of a hat), a servant of Jesus must be available to share his time, his treasure, and his testimony with other people."
11. Please state some of the reasons why American Christians choose not to serve others with their time, treasure, and testimony. Is it valid for a follower of Christ to yield to those reasons?
12. Did Jesus place any conditions on Zacchaeus before he decided to visit with Zacchaeus? As a Christian, is it proper for me to place conditions on any person before I agree to serve or help him?

Read Philippians 2:1-8

13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Before a Christian can begin to enjoy the abundant life of being united with Christ, that Christian must first choose to abandon his own agenda and he must choose to submit to God's agenda for his life."
14. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Serving other people is a low priority in my life. Seeking God's will for my life is another low priority in my life. Doing "what I want to do is all that matters to me, and that is the way I choose to live."

Consider: It is the will of God that I am to devote my entire life to becoming like Jesus. I am never more like Jesus than when I am serving other people. In order to serve others, I must: train myself to become sensitive to, and aware of, the needs of others; make myself available to meet those needs; accept others just the way they are; abide in Christ; and, abandon my agenda and follow God's agenda. "You think about that." Amen.