

WHEN THE LAST IS FIRST

(Matthew 20:20-28)

- Introduction:
1. We serve in and are citizens in an upside down kingdom.
 2. Greatness in God's kingdom is not achieved by authority, power, and status, but by **service, service, service!**
 3. Let us note a few things that God's word says about service.

I. All Christians Are To Be Servants

- A. (Romans 8:28-29) Be conformed to the image of His Son.
- B. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:5-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9) Jesus was a servant.
- C. (Matthew 20:20-28) Jesus' disciples were to be servants—but struggled with the concept.

II. Deacons—A Special Class Of Servants

- A. While all Christians are to be servants, God has made arrangements for a special class of servants, called “Deacons” (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
- B. This is not a position of honor or prestige—it is a work.
- C. (Matthew 23:1-12).
- D. In a day and age when people want to know what's in it for them, it is refreshing to know there are individuals who are asking what they can do for others.

- Conclusion:
1. If you are not a servant in the Kingdom of God, we encourage you to humble yourself as a slave and make Christ your master.
 2. If you are already in the Kingdom of God, but have been trying to achieve greatness according to the fashion of this world, repent and humble yourself before God.

You know Lord, how I serve You with great emotional fervor in the limelight.
You know how eagerly I speak for You at a women's club.
You know how I effervesce when I promote a fellowship group.
You know of my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible study.
But how would I react, I wonder, If You pointed to a basin of water and asked me to wash the calloused feet of a bent and wrinkled old woman, day after day, month after month, in a room where nobody saw, and nobody knew?
—Ruth Harms Calkin