

The Discipleship Principle

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John 13:12-20

Matthew 20:25 – [25] *But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.”*

The DISCIPLESHIP PRINCIPLE that will OPERATE in CHRIST’s KINGDOM will be different from the world’s

- It will be SERVICE.
- Matthew 20:26 – [26] *It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.*
- If you want to become (*ginomai*) GREAT in the KINGDOM... you must be a servant (*diakonos*).
- Whoever would be FIRST. Must be your SLAVE (*doulos*).
 - Matthew 23:11 – [11] *The greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*
 - This discipleship principle is modeled by Christ Himself.
 - Matthew 20:28 – [28] *even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come as a Servant

- Isaiah 42:1- [1] *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.*
- Isaiah 49:5 – [5] *And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.*
- Isaiah 52:13 – [13] *Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. [14] As many were astonished at you—his appearance so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—[15] so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.*

The Lord’s Practice

In the ancient world, when you would come into a HOUSE, a SLAVE would be ready to wash people’s FEET.

John 13:12 – [12] *When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”*

- Philippians 2:6 – [6] *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant; being born in the likeness of men.*
- Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8:9 – [9] *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

John 13:13 – [13] *You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.*

- It was NOT uncommon to call someone “TEACHER,” but here JESUS also affirms His LORDSHIP.
 - There is a necessity to believe what Jesus said, but also to submit our lives to HIM.
 - Ephesians 1:22 – [22] *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.*
 - Faith requires that we believe in Jesus as Savior *and* Lord.
 - And JESUS is reminding them of this AUTHORITY.

The Lord's Principle

John 13:14 – [14] *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

- Our Lord is laying down a GENERAL principle of DISCIPLESHIP.
 - FOOT WASHING is a *synecdoche*. Where Something stands for something much more.
 - But the FOOT WASHING is indicative of the PATTERN of his life.
 - You are to be LIKE ME (PRESENT TENSE VERB)

John 13:15 – [15] *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

- IS JESUS instituting the ORDINANCE of FOOT WASHING here?
- This practice of FOOTWASHING was something that was practiced in the EARLY CHURCH.
 - 1 Timothy 5:10 – *and has washed the feet of the saints...*
- However, Jesus was not instituting the ordinance of FOOT WASHING.
- BUT rather a PRINCIPLE of SERVICE.
- But the PRINCIPLE is this: That FOLLOWING JESUS's EXAMPLE, OUR FUNDAMENTAL IDENTITY should be that of SERVANTS.
- William Hendriksen – “Although no sacrament has been instituted to be literally copied this does not remove the fact that under certain conditions those who may wish to show their hospitality in this manner are doing the proper thing (cf. 1 Tim 5:10). It should, however, be stressed that what Jesus had in mind was not an outward rite but an inner attitude, that of humility and eagerness to serve.”

John 13:16 – [16] *Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.*

- This is a PROVERB that JESUS used quite a bit. John 15:20; Matt 10:24; Luke 6:40. A SAYING to INVOKE HUMILITY.

John 13:17 – [17] *If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*

- Sometimes there is a GAP between knowledge and action.
- The term BLESSED (*makarioi*)... (sometimes translated happy); but it is to be the recipient of God's Happiness. God's Blessing.

The Lord's Prediction

The Lord Proves His Deity. There is divine authority in this Injunction.

The CONNECTION. Judas will NOT enter this BLESSEDNESS.

John 13:18 – [18] *I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen.*

- Specifically the LORD Jesus Christ, chooses who will be His disciples.
 - Yet, Jesus is NOT taken off guard by Judas.
 - Even though our Lord knew that Judas would betray Him.

- John 13:11 – [11] *For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”*
- John 6:70, 71 – [70] *Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” [71] He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.*
- Why did JESUS endure JUDAS ISCARIOT?

But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ (Psalm 41:9)

- That is the moment when the BETRAYEL comes.
- The PERSON who shares the MEAL with you... eats your BREAD. That’s the PERSON who is going to lift his foot.
 - The way that the Psalmist applies this verse... is in the moment of CRISIS.
 - When the world is against you. When people are saying, *“A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”* (Psalm 41:8)

John 13:19 – [19] I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

- The sign of the prophet is that what they say comes to PASS.
- Deuteronomy 18:22 – [22] *when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.*
- Jesus says, I am giving you this prophecy so that you may believe that “I am.” (The DIVINE NAME of GOD).
 - When JUDAS will betray the LORD, it will be a grievous BLOW.
 - You remember, I PREDICTED this.
 - This is ALL according to PLAN.
 - This is all in FULLFILLMENT of the SCRIPTURES... remember this.

The Lord’s Preachers

John 13:19b – [19b] Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

- As the Lord’s Servant, this is the great privilege, if someone receives you, they receive Christ and the Father.
- As the LORD’s SERVANT, you are an AMBASSADOR of CHRIST 2 Cor 5:20 – [20] *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of God, be reconciled to God.*

Application:

- 1) You become a humble servant.
 - 1 Cor 4:1 – [1] *This is how you are to regard us, as servants of Christ...*
 - Jesus was a SERVANT. You become a SERVANT.
 - John 12:26 – [26] *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*
- 2) General demeanor of HUMILITY and SERVICE towards God and fellow Christians.
 - Galatians 5:13 – [13] *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*
- 3) You are SPENT in a Particular SERVICE to Christ and His Mission.