

Huddle

People Matter - So The Church Serves
September 22, 2013

Describe a time when you received great customer service.

Jesus was known as the **servant-king**; not King-servant. He set an example of serving .

Mark 10:42 Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." NKJV

Why do you think Jesus set a high standard for serving?

Let's review why People Matter!

Lost People Matter. God is an active, passionate pursuer.

Finding each lost life calls for great celebration.

Our greatest legacy will be those who live eternally because of our efforts.

Compassionate and Concerned. Compassion is transferring the heart of God through you to the people around you. The vertical of the cross (God to you) to the horizontal of the cross (God through you to others). Compassion is to feel what they feel, to think what they think, to see what they see at a deep "gut-wrenching" level.

As Christ Followers, we believe Jesus is King and Father God is Sovereign. True kings in true kingdoms imply there are servants who serve their king. I truly believe how we serve really speaks of how much we are loyal to the king, the Lord Jesus. Because if you only serve yourself, your needs, your priorities, you demonstrate that you are your king! Jesus requires a different standard of leadership.

During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. their leader was shouting instructions, but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, "Sir, I am a corporal!" The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, "Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again." It was none other than George Washington. *Today in the Word*, March 6, 1991

In Mark 10:42-45 (above), Jesus make it plain the chief characteristic of Christian leaders is humility, not authority; and gentleness, not power.

To serve as Jesus did:

1. make serving a spiritual discipline.
2. It is a reflection of your faith.
3. Serve in excellence.
4. Remember who you are serving and why.
5. With a right attitude.

Describe when you have been moved with gut-wrenching compassion for another person.

What's The Matter? "Houston, we have a problem!"

- Sin is the matter, and it is serious!

As Christians, we are part of God's kingdom and we are involved in a battle against our souls. Our arch-enemy is Satan, who "walks around like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8).

"The way in which he devours people is by tempting them to sin - by convincing them sin is a more rewarding master than Christ: - Jim Elliff

"Sin is the human being saying to God throughout life, "Go away and leave me alone." -Millard Erickson

Genesis 4:7 You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master." NLT

To win this war, we must:

- Take responsibility of our choices, decisions, and SINS!
- Submit to God, Resist Satan.
- Put on the Full Armor of God.
- Walk, live, breath in the Spirit

How has recognizing SIN as the problem, helped you to win the war?

Let's Get Real!

New Testament "servant" is diakonos (deacon/deaconess) which is to run errands, a table waiter, a teacher, or a pastor. Jesus' example was to give up His own life as "ransom for many". *What is hardest for you to give up to serve others?*

Servant leadership means:

- seeing ourselves as called by God to serve/lead others
- knowing intimately the people we serve/lead
- caring deeply about the people we serve/lead
- being willing to sacrifice our own convenience to meet the needs of the people we serve/lead

Which part of servant leadership challenges you most?

"The cost of true greatness is humble, selfless, sacrificial service. The Christian who desires to be great and first in the kingdom is the one who is willing to serve in the hard place, the uncomfortable place, the lonely place, the demanding place, the place where he is not appreciated and may even be persecuted. Knowing that time is short and eternity is long, he is willing to spend and be spent. He is willing to work for excellence without becoming proud, to withstand criticism without becoming bitter, to be misjudged without becoming defensive, and to withstand suffering without succumbing to self pity." John MacArthur, Grace to You

Walk it Out

People Matter! How will you become more Christ-like while serving others this week?