
Abide

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Abiding at Home

The Test of Servanthood...





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Our Mission Statement:

The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of other youths, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material will be edited with this goal in mind. The Editors

In Upcoming Issues . . .

The Walk of Faith Surrender & Commitment Soulwinning—Practical Helps

At this time, we plan to run these themes in this order, but if our readers desire an issue on a different topic, or submit material for an issue planned for a later date, we are willing to switch themes. Reader *feedback* is important!

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The Ten Most Humble People

(And How I Met The Other Nine)

–Dru Lattin

We are probably all familiar with Christ’s command in Matthew 18 to humble ourselves, and have struggled to embrace this beautiful yet elusive trait for ourselves. Every once in a while, we meet someone who seems to exude this quality of meekness, and that example intensifies our desire for humility. I cannot offer myself as an example (despite the tongue-in-cheek title of this article), but perhaps I can show you Someone Who truly is the most humble Person that has ever walked the face of the earth—Jesus Christ.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:5 ff).

We must always remember that Christ is our first example for anything because He is the finest and purest example. Christ specifically told us to learn of Him **because**¹ He is meek and lowly in heart. He gives a beautiful and true promise that we will find rest if we follow Him on this painful road to humility. (Matthew 11:29) If we truly desire this trait (and this promise), we truly desire to be like Christ. If His greatest act was dying for me, then I too must die—die to my reputation, die to my own desires, die to myself. Sometimes we forget that Jesus, although fully God, was also fully man and had His own will to overcome to do the will of the One who sent Him. (John 5:30) Even the Incarnation (maybe especially so) required Him to empty Himself of all but love,² surrender His place at the right hand of God, and take the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.

Christ did not merely teach His disciples with His words, He taught them with His life as well. I am convinced that Christ lived a life of perpetual humility and surrender to His Father’s will, not only because it was necessary for ultimate victory, but also to set a divine example for us to follow. This is the example we should follow.

I think the home is the most important area where humility is needed. Many of us see some of our peers going forth into more exciting fields, while we stay at home to serve our families. Although this service is a very worthy calling and an absolutely essential task, we sometimes fail to realize this and are blinded by the seemingly more glorious pursuits that those around us are engaged in. Let us lay aside the honor and glory our flesh craves, and be content to be an unseen servant. Let us even seek the invisible services that make humility so much easier to achieve. Let us look to Christ alone for the victory over pride and self.

Some of our peers are going forth and seeking their own glory, while we stay at home to serve our families.

Now, let us look more closely at how we can look to Christ for our example, as we strive to be servants at home.

Christ completely surrendered His will to His Father.

True humility, true servanthood completely frees us of our own will to serve those around us. Christ gave us the ultimate portrait of humility and surrender when He gave His life on the cross having prayed “*Not My will but Thine be done.*” (Luke 22:42) This prayer of surrender does not merely *suppress* our own will, but **replaces** it. Our desire is now His desire. Is not true humility considering my own will to be disposable in favor of Another’s? Is not true servanthood allowing a more worthy One to use my whole being as He wishes? Is this not true Christianity? May we follow His example!

Christ was not concerned about what others thought of Him.

I often struggle in this area, constantly screening every action I make and every word I speak, wondering what impression I am making³. Sometimes, it seems that underlying all I do is an attempt to exalt myself. This is certainly *not* the spirit of Christ or His followers. Christ made himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7), and we are called to have this same mind. A spirit of self-exultation is totally incompatible with a Christ-like mindset, and we must recognize this as sin and repent of it.

Although it is natural to want people to think well of us, we must be free from the fear of man if we want to follow His example. This aspect of humility is especially unappealing to our flesh; but Christ said that we are blessed when men hate us and separate us from their company for His sake, and to rejoice and leap for joy *because our reward is in heaven*. (Luke 6:22, 23) I can say from personal experience that a life spent trying to make a good impression before men will enslave you and render you useless as far as the Kingdom of Heaven is concerned. (Editors Note: *God will still use you to accomplish His will, but you will be a vessel of dishonor. See Philippians 1:18*) Although Christ did not do anything to tarnish His reputation, you will never find Him posturing, posing, or defending Himself. May we be approved unto God, and not worry about what men may think of us!

Christ served those around Him.

One of the most prominent features of Jesus' life is the love and service He shows for His disciples. I wonder why we find it so hard to do this in our families when we are so often eager to serve in ways that are more prominent. Could it be that this reveals our true motives for service? God cannot use a person to bring glory to His name if that person is seeking to bring glory to himself. If we desire to be like Christ, we must serve with only the purest motives. Anything less is not true servanthood.

The noblest act of sacrifice becomes a meaningless facade for self-exultation when done for the wrong reason. However, tremendous power and blessing comes from servanthood unfettered and unrestrained by pride. If we want eternal rewards, we must not seek any earthly reward, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. (Matthew 6:1-7) Oh, that we may be free from all that would lessen the Glory of the Father, namely ourselves!

Serving others is simply humility in action, and humility is the prerequisite to serving others. We can-

not do one without the other. If we try, we *will* fail. (Take it from one who has tried!) If we are not faithful in serving our own families, we will not be faithful in other things. (Luke 16:10) Let us look for more and more ways to serve our brothers, sisters, and parents while we still have the chance; remembering that God designed the home as a training ground for His disciples. Let us serve each other, motivated by Love and unhindered by pride. May we have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus!

Serving others is simply humility in action. Humility is the prerequisite to serving others.

Before I close, I must point out that even over humility, the predominant and governing force in Christ's life was love. Love **must** take the same place in our lives as well. However, it is paramount that we realize a spirit of humility is necessary for us to love as Christ loved. (1 Corinthians 13:4) Pride will, in the end, choke out love; therefore it is essential that we rid ourselves of pride. Without love we can do nothing, without humility we cannot love.

I could go on and on, but His example in this area is clear. I think we can all examine the life of Jesus and glean much more than I could ever bring out in a short article. Let me encourage you to intensively study His life, especially from the Gospel of John. As we look to Christ for our example *and* for the power to change our adamic nature to His humble nature, we cannot help but be conformed to His likeness.

Finally, we must *want* to be humble! We must ask for humility, and ask in faith, knowing that He will provide exceeding abundantly above all that we think or ask. (Ephesians 3:20) Why ask when we are not sure we want what will be given? Why seek when we don't know what we're looking for, and would rather not find it anyway? Why knock if we fear what is on the other side of the door? Pursuing humility must be an endeavor we give our whole being to, with nothing held back. We must pray for the strength to truly ask, really seek, and earnestly knock. If we mean it, and believe His promised response, He will abundantly give, patiently lead, and gladly open the door. Praise the Lord!

Although the title of this article was intended to pro-

voke a smile, I realize there is another meaning to be derived from that phrase: If we were truly making a list of “The Ten Most Humble People,” Christ of course, would be at the very top. Who would be the others? How do you go about finding truly humble people? I certainly don’t envy the person who has that task!

In reality, the humblest servants, by definition, will not be found. If they could be found, most likely they would be in some inconspicuous place, serving their Master without any fanfare or honor, merely living and serving contentedly where God placed them. This is at once undesirable to the flesh, yet what my heart most longs for. Can we truly say that we desire not to be seen or praised or rewarded? Do we truly want Christ to receive the glory for *everything* we do? Isn’t this what He calls us to do—to deny ourselves and follow Him? (Matthew 16:24) May we come to the end of ourselves. May we serve Him alone. May we follow His example!

Dru Lattin, 18, lives in Silver Bay, Minnesota.

¹ The Greek word “hoti” is translated “for” in the KJV, but is also translated “because” in other passages. See Strong’s #3754

² From the hymn “And Can It Be” by Charles Wesley.

³ I must caution that we are to be sensitive to others, seasoning our speech with grace (Colossians 4:6). Clearly, the rightness or wrongness of things of this nature depends on one’s motive (compare Matthew 5:16 with 6:1-6 for an excellent example of this).

Back Issue Requests

Over the last year, we have received many requests for back issues. We are only too happy to fill these requests, but the cost of printing back issues is substantially higher than printing a regular issue.

Because of this, we feel that the only way we can offer back issues is at cost. We have calculated the costs to be \$2 per issue.

To obtain back issues, contact Andrew or Josiah Roche. The address and Email are on the second page. Back issues are available for all of the issues we have printed:

Volume 1 Issues 1–5

May God Bless You!



A Sunbeam

*Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for Him each day;
In every way try to please Him,
At home, at school, at play.*

*A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.*

*Jesus wants me to be loving,
And kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy
His little one can be.*

*I will ask Jesus to help me
To keep my heart from sin,
Ever reflecting His goodness,
And always shine for Him.*

*I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus;
I can if I but try;
Serving Him moment by moment,
Then live with Him on high.*

—Nellie Talbot



“You are the light of the world..Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

Matthew 5:14a, 16

Developing a Servant's Heart

–Rebecca Rocke

“But whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.” (Matthew 20:26b-27)

“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11)

The Bible clearly states we should be servants, yet how many of us really understand what this means? In the past few years, the Lord has been teaching me what it is to be a servant. I would like to share some of the lessons I have learned.

The dictionary definition of a servant is *“a person who voluntarily serves another or acts as his minister.”* The definition of a minister is *“to serve, wait, or attend.”* Part of being a servant is looking for opportunities to serve, and meeting the needs of others. Ruth showed servanthood by looking for ways to help Naomi. She found a way to support Naomi, even if it required self-sacrifice. Being a servant often demands denying yourself.

The Greek word for servant in Matthew 23:11 means *“run errands, attendant (at table or other menial tasks), servant, or minister.”* Often we tend to look for big opportunities where we can serve, but it is in the mundane, everyday activities wherein lies the real test of being a servant.

Prayer is necessary in the development of servant's heart. Ask the Lord to give you a servant's heart. To “create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

The Greek in Matthew 20:26b-27 means: *“a slave, or in subjection.”* All the definitions build on each other and add new dimensions to the meaning of servanthood. One of the first things that comes to mind when I think of a servant is that they are in subjection to someone else. Being under authority



when you are a servant is very important. A servant must know their jurisdiction, or put another way, their area of responsibility. I must make sure where I am serving is not someone else's responsibility. For example: In the morning, we are to clean our bedrooms. My little brothers have a habit of leaving things on their floor. My parents want them, not me, to pick-up their bedroom. I must be under my parent's authority and let my brothers straighten their bedroom. A servant will quickly get frustrated if he is not under authority. If I am serving without my authority's knowledge, I could easily be acting in opposition with the plans of my parents or leaders. To avoid this, I have to find out my authority's plans and goals. Then, find ways to serve within those boundaries.

Prayer is necessary in the development of servant's heart. Ask the Lord to give you a servant's heart. To “create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10) Everyday I ask the Lord to build in me His character and a servant's heart. One thing I am constantly reminding myself

of is that a servant with a heart after His should not desire the praise of men. I am working for my A.U.G. degree. A.U.G. stands for Approved Unto God. Whatever I do should be done heartily unto the Lord and not unto men. (Colossians 3:23)

We need to serve where we are. I am at home most of the time, and everyday I find new opportunities. Books need to be put away, shoes put in the closet, and toys need to be put in the toy box. The list goes on of little things that can help lighten a load for someone else. What we do and how we do it reveals to others the condition of our heart. *“Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.”* (Proverbs 20:11) When I serve, I must be cheerful and enthusiastic. Even if I don't like the job, I can be joyful for the Biblical command is *“Rejoice, and again I say rejoice!”* (Philippians 4:4) While I do something, I can be light and salt. (Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:14-15) People look at our actions more than our words to form their opinion of a Christian. The example we set is vitally important.

I have found that when I serve, I often have to make a choice between doing what I wanted and planned, or meeting the unspoken needs around me.

Our younger siblings watch to see how Christians are supposed to live. Will they see older siblings who are self-sacrificing or siblings who are selfish and lazy? I still have a long way to go on being a good example. Part of being a good example is letting my younger siblings learn to serve with me. So often I push them aside by saying, “I need to get this done quickly.” I must learn to allow my four-year-old sister to “help” make biscuits or cookies—even if it takes longer! I will be investing in an eternal soul. I will be teaching them. *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Timothy 4:12) I have an incredible opportunity and must learn to use it wisely.

Being a servant also requires creativity. Esther used creativity in presenting her request to the king to save her people. Solomon practiced creativity in solving the case with the two women fighting over the baby. Creativity literally means to look at a job from a new perspective.

Being a servant is not always easy, but knowing He is pleased will make it worth it all. Therefore, we need to *“press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”* (Philippians 3:12b) Pressing on requires sacrifice and yielding of rights, but if we trust in the grace of God, He will give us strength to do His will. May Jesus bless you as you pray about applications of this to your life.

Epilogue

I wrote the above article almost six years ago. I have found that when you tell God you want to go on with Him, He takes you at your word. He provides more opportunities for you to grow than you think are possible. I have learned life is like a classroom. Each class goes a little deeper than the last. The following thoughts are notes from the last six years of School.

Humility

Nothing seems kingdom-building in doing dirty laundry or sewing clothes for little sisters. Yet this is where I have been called to serve my King. To continually serve in this way requires that I put aside desires of recognition or appreciation. I have to daily lay down my desires plans, and cheerfully take up the desires of those I serve. I still have a long way to go on this one. I must be able to say, “Your plans are best, how can I help?”

Denying Yourself

I have found that when I serve, I often have to make a choice between doing what I wanted and planned, or meeting the unspoken needs around me. Often there are needs around the house that are not voiced as needs, but would bless Mom if they were taken care of. Menial things that mean something to her—like organizing closets, cleaning cupboards, ironing, weeding flowerbeds—the list could go on and on. In each situation, I am given the opportunity to lay down my desires (i.e. reading, relaxing, sewing), and just serve. It is much harder than it sounds on paper. Most times there are not visible rewards. It is an easy area to overlook.

People vs. Projects

My parents have often pointed out to me that I become so involved with my service that I sometimes lose touch with the people I am serving. I begin to focus on the project and all that needs to be done. I forget that God desires me to impact people. I often

need someone to nudge me backwards so that I again see the big picture. First and foremost, my service lies in relationships with others. I must be willing to invest by encouraging, listening, and leading others toward Jesus.

Keeping Focus

One of the biggest challenges I face is realizing that being a servant, especially at home, is often a lonely job. You serve unnoticed and most times quietly. It has forced me to find my security and affirmation only in the Lord. I must rely on His strength and fellowship. He must be at the center of my heart and day. For me, it is so easy to get caught up in daily activities and forget to look for Him in my work. I lose the joy that comes from serving Him. I begin to see tasks and not my service of love to Him.

I desire to have Christ work more and more of a servant's heart into me, that I might be His servant in every way. I want to close with an entry from *Streams in the Desert*. Consider what it says. We don't serve our families for reward, we serve them because Christ would.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:6–7)



Just as old soldiers compare their battle scars and stories of war when they get together, when we arrive at our heavenly home, we will tell of the goodness and faithfulness of God, Who brought us through every trial along the way. I would not like to stand with the multitude clothed in robes made "white in the Blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14) and hear these words: "These are they who have come out of the great Tribulation"—all except you."

How would you like to stand there and be pointed out as the only saint who had never experienced sorrow? Never! You would feel like a stranger in the midst of a sacred fellowship. Therefore may we be content to share in the battle, for we will wear a crown of reward and wave a palm branch of praise. CHARLES H. SPURGEON

During the American Civil war, at the battle of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, a surgeon asked a soldier where

he was hurt. The wounded soldier answered, "Right near the top of the mountain." He was not thinking of his gaping wound, but was only remembering that he had won the ground near the top of the mountain.

May we also go forth to high endeavors for Christ, never resting until we can shout from the mountaintop, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

*Finish your work, then rest,
Till then rest never;
Since rest for you with God
Is rest forever.*

God will examine your life not for medals, diplomas, or degrees but for battle scars.

A medieval singer once sang of his hero:

*With his trusty sword for aid;
Ornament it carried none,
But the notches of the blade.*

What nobler medal of honor could any Godly person seek than the scars of service, personal loss for the crown of reward, disgrace for the sake of Christ, and being worn out in the Master's service.¹

Rebecca Rocke, 21, lives in Hortonville, WI. She is the oldest of 10 children. She has faithfully served her family for many years. We appreciate her willingness to share the insights she has gained from this experience.

1 December 12th
Streams in the Desert (Updated Edition)

If we search for great servants, we usually find few. Why? If you ponder this question, you may realize: The best servants go unnoticed.

Think of Jesus Christ. We hear nothing of Him for 18 years. Where was He? He was silently serving at home. "Then He went down with them to Nazareth."

Prerequisites For Serving—Caleb Rocke

Abiding at Home is the topic of this issue, and it is one of the important issues of our youthful days. We cannot truly abide at home unless we are serving our family the way Christ would want us to.

In these times, it is unusual to see someone serving their family. Everyone seems to be following their own pursuits. When others see us serving our family, they will wonder why we do. It not only enables us to serve our family, but also to show the world God's love.

I have found there are three attitudes which enable me to serve my family better. I often struggle in these areas. Perhaps you do to. Nevertheless, I am committed to keep on trying in order to serve my family, and become more Christ-like.

1. I must be willing to serve.

I can't say "Come on, haven't I done enough? I am constantly helping and serving my family." However, having a servant's heart means that I am continually looking for ways to help and serve my family. This is what I am supposed to do. That is what serving them is all about. Christ commanded me to love my neighbors. My family members are my closest neighbors. Serving is something that Christ did repeatedly. Since Jesus did it, doesn't that mean that I must also?

2. I must watch my tongue.

If I do not watch my tongue, it may cause my serving to be hindered. My tongue can be an instrument of blessing or cursing. (James 3:10) What does this have to do with serving? If I am trying to serve, but spout angry words at people while doing so, it isn't really serving. If I'm always sounding off at others, it not only hinders my serving, but also shows a bad example to my siblings who must learn to serve.

My tongue is very important. It may be the most important part of serving. It can scare people, hurt people, anger people, and chase them off. In the book of James, it says that the tongue must be bridled. The tongue reflects the true motives of my heart. If I am careful to watch it, it can alert me to attitudes that I need to change. Example: Instead of "You are always making messes! I have to pick them up! You guys are driving me bananas!" However, by God's grace I can say, "You like playing with (trucks,

cars, dolls, house, etc). When you get done, come get me, and I'll help you pick them up. I am very grateful to God that you are in my family, God put you here so that we all can grow." I must bridle my tongue. I must be sure that nothing I say will hurt or offend those I am trying to serve. Where there are hurt feelings and wounded spirits within my family, I must seek reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

3. To complete my serving, I must have unity with my family.

I have experienced this more and more the last few years. There is a purpose for why we have the family we have. It seems that when we do not have unity at home, we often feel there is no opportunities for us to serve. If I am united with my family, I won't be as tempted to look outside of it for opportunities to help and serve. It is not wrong to help and serve other families, but my family should be my first priority.

In these times, it is very unusual to see someone serving his or her family. When others see us serving our family, they will wonder why we do.

At my house, we hold a Bible study every week. One thing that has happened to people that have come is that they realize that they must have a union with their families. Most of the people that come are coming from broken families (their parents divorced, separated, etc.), yet they have realized that, after drawing closer to God, they must draw closer to their family!

This is short, but it is meant to get you and me working and serving our families. We have our families for only so long, before siblings go to work, get married, move away, or get going on careers. We must enjoy these times with our families!

God bless you while you serve your family!☺

Caleb Rocke, 14, is currently serving his family in Wisconsin.

“I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I will love my family.”

This short article is part of a message that Brother Denny Kenaston gave at Youth Bible School 2001 as part of a series of messages entitled “I Am a Disciple of Jesus Christ.” One term that is important for readers to understand is Generation X. This refers to the average youth of our day.

In an earlier message, Denny describes Generation X: Aimless, unmotivated, always seeking pleasure, and without any moral standards. May God speak to you through this! –The Editor

A special thanks to Lauren Keyes for her diligent efforts to transcribe this message.

When you talk about laying down your life for your neighbors, surely the closest neighbors you have are your mother, your father, and your brothers and sisters. Are they not your neighbors? They are! They are your neighbors according to the New Testament.

Generation X needs to see a new breed of youth—youth that march to the beat of a different drum; youth that lay down their lives to love, serve, and respect their families. Generation X needs an example! We live in a day and age when youth despise their parents, they despise their homes, and they don't want to be there.

Generation X needs to see a new breed of youth—youth that march to the beat of a different drum; youth that lay down their lives to love, serve, and respect their families

It's not all their fault. I'm not throwing stones at them. They have been neglected. They have not been taught. Mom and Dad have been too busy. Mom and Dad have been making money. There are all kinds of reasons, but the fact remains: They despise and disrespect their families. They rebel against their parents. They don't want to do what their parents say. They shake off authority with everything they've got. They make trouble in their home—they fight, they argue, they carry on with Mom and Dad. They spurn their brothers and sisters, push them away, and don't have time for them.

There needs to be a generation of young people that will set a different example. If you do, you will stick out like a sore thumb. Actually, you will stick out like a beautiful thumb, dear young people, beautiful in

the sight of God. Raise a new example! Let the Spirit of Jesus dwell in you. Lay down your life for your family. They are your closest neighbors.

You cannot be a disciple and despise your parents and spurn your siblings. You cannot be one. You cannot be a disciple if your heart says, “I will not submit to my dad in things that he wants me to do. I will not submit to my mom in things that she is always fussing to me about. I'm not going to submit to those things.” You cannot be a disciple and have attitudes like that. They are contrary to the God Who saved you. You cannot do it!

Give your heart to your mom and your dad, young people. Some of you don't want to do that. Some of you have too many things that you want to do.

It's one thing to go to an altar and say to God, Who you can't see, “Oh God! I give You everything, Lord! Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee!” You can wax eloquent up there, talking to a God that you can't see! However, can you sit down with your father, or your mother, and I want to qualify that: Fathers and Mothers who love the Lord and are concerned about your life. Can you sit down with them and say to your dad, “Dad, take my life and let it be whatever you want it to be. Guide and direct me. Go into my closet and tell me what to wear. Go



into my car and go through my music, Dad. I want whatever you want. I'm not going to carry on and fuss at you anymore. I'm not going to make a stink every time you try to touch something in my life." Can you do that? That is consecration. It's not consecration to your dad—it's consecration to God. Oh, it is *beautiful!*

This is for all young people, not just for young ladies—it's for the young men too. "Dad, here's my heart. You do with it what you want. No more reservations, no more secrets, no more certain things that I reserve for me." No more "I'm becoming a young man now. I have to make my own decisions, and I need to do what I need to do, and I need to de-

Let your father and mother know and sense the flow out of your heart—one of respect, one of honor, one of love, one of desire to bless them.

cide what is right for me, and I can make my own (whatever)..." You need to lay it down, young men.

I know that some of your heads are just spinning, "Oh, how do I relate to all of that? I don't even have a home to go home to!" Well, it may be that you'll have to lay down your life even more than what I just described, in deeper ways, and in ways that are harder to lay down in order to be a disciple who loves your family. I understand that some of you have some difficult things to work through. You must love the Lord Jesus more than your father and your mother, but let your father and mother know and sense the flow out of your heart—one of respect, one of honor, one of love, one of desire to bless them in anyway, in every way you can. Let there not be one rebellious spirit or bone in your body because you have followed the Lord Jesus and had to leave home. You can lay down your life for your mom and dad in ways that the others cannot, and I want to encourage you to do it.

"I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I will love my family. I am going to live out my faith in such a way that Generation X will look on and think that I *must* be from another planet. It will be evidenced in the way I treat my mom and dad, and my

brothers and sisters."

May God help you to do it.

From "The Disciple and His Neighbors," delivered by Denny Kenaston. Used by permission.

Denny Kenaston is an elder at Charity Christian Fellowship. God has used him to awaken many to the importance of following God in every area of our life—our youth, our homes, our jobs, etc. We thank him for allowing us to use this material.

If you are interested in obtaining these messages contact:

**Charity Gospel Tape Ministry
(800) 227-7902.**

The title of the message is "The Disciple & His Neighbors."



Never take the time you have for granted. "For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Will you have regrets when your youthful days are past? I pray God you will not.

Serving Mothers: Practical Helps—Allison Payette



We are in a school that very few young ladies get to enter in this day and age.

Many of us desire to be used of God. Immediately most of us think of the mission field—the souls in Africa and other foreign countries. Some of us think of the inner cities. We want so badly to touch souls, to change lives, and to encourage others on in their walk with God. We think of the labors and sacrifices of those called to go overseas. I praise God for those who are called there. *“How shall they hear without a preacher?”* Romans 10:14. However, in this article I would like to call your attention to another very needy field. A field that for us sisters is wide open, and given much attention in the Scriptures. It is very commended by the apostles, the prophets, and Christ Himself. I would like to call you to the field of ministry in your home congregation.

“I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many,

and of myself also.” Romans 16:1 & 2

“...Dorcas...was full of good works and alms deeds which she did. And it came to pass...that...she died...and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. Then Peter...kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes...And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.” Acts 9:36-43

The testimony of each of these sisters is precious. Did you ever think about the fact that these sisters and many others will be remembered forever in the word of God for their service to their church? The one was supposed to be assisted in whatever way she needed. The other was loved so much by the widows that Peter raised her from the dead thus sparking a fire of revival throughout the city of Joppa. I am sure we all agree that God used Dorcas in a mighty way that day! Think of the lives that were changed by their sacrificial service. Think of the many people that were clothed who might have otherwise gone without. (*“I was naked and ye clothed me”*) Think of the lessons Dorcas may have gleaned from the older widows in the church as she labored for them in their homes and heard their hearts as they fellowshipped and worked together at the same time. Think of how the aged women were able to teach these sisters how *“...to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home...”* Titus 2:5

We, as single young sisters, are in a phase of our lives that we will never be able to relive. It is an invaluable time in which every waking moment should be redeemed to its fullest capacity. We should be throwing ourselves into learning to be all that God wants us to be. We are in a school that very few young ladies get to enter in this day and age. It is one that married sisters encourage us to immerse ourselves in and glean all we can. Many of them had no example to follow. These women had a difficult path to travel in becoming Godly women. They may not have had older sisters as examples to them, or they may have squandered the investments that others made in them. However, we have an opportunity to become godly women whose price is far above rubies.

There are busy sisters in each of our churches that are in need of our help in many, many ways. They are pouring their lives into their families. They are trying to do everything they can to keep up with their workload. They love their families dearly and so sweetly keep going and going. They have the laundry to do, the house to clean, the meals to make, the children to school, the sewing to do, the hurts to heal, the relationships to build, the smiles to give, the bathing to do, the garden to weed, the vegetables to can... shall I go on? These dear busy sisters are a blessing to our lives that we wouldn't want to do without! Each one can be an example to us of Godliness that we should watch and glean from while we have opportunity. Each one has a particular area they excel in, and we should study and seek their instruction to find out how they got there!

The purpose of this article is to call to attention the young sisters who have time enough to help these busy mothers. Some of you are daughters in one of those busy homes; you may already know what sacrifice is about, or you may not be taking full advantage of the school you are in. Please search your heart and ask your mother if you are fulfilling the role in the home she expects you to, and if you are becoming the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

Most of the young ladies reading this article are blessed beyond measure to be in a Godly family. Their fathers provide for their material needs so that they can concentrate on learning to be virtuous women of faith and life. Some of you are not in that situation. Some of you are from unsaved families and are now responsible to provide for yourselves. My heart is with you as you read this and yearn for a Godly family. Most of us, though, have the opportunity to stay at home under our fathers' guidance and



care. Therefore, we are able to enter into this wonderful field of ministry in our home congregations. It is wonderful for us young sisters, but it is also wonderful for the busy mothers who sometimes need the extra encouragement of a willing, helping hand and a cheerful smile to boost their spirits and give them a breath of fresh air.

My heart really goes out to those who need help and either never or else very seldom get help because the girls are not available or else they can't afford them.

In my own ministry of helping mothers, I have spoken to many and heard their hearts regarding this subject. I have spoken to those who get this kind of help, and I have also spoken with those who do not. The mothers in our church don't get as much help as I wish we could give them, since we don't have enough available young sisters in our church to meet the needs. However, I am glad that we can be there to relieve them as often as we possibly can. My heart really goes out to those who need help and seldom, if ever, get help because it is not available or else they can't afford it. Young sisters, don't we want to make ourselves a useful support to these parents striving to raise their families in a God-honoring way? Can we be there to lift their hands for them when they are weary much like Aaron did for Moses?

There are many ways to make ourselves available. I'll use myself as an example first. I used to be a lot more active within the sister's homes until about two years ago when our family started our own business. At that point I became a full time secretary for my father. I was twenty-three years old then. Having spent years already pouring myself into being a lover of the home and helping others, I didn't want to stop serving families. My father allowed me to bring my sewing machines down to the shop. Up in a hot loft area, I set up my machines and ironing board and went to work! Every time the phone rang I had to run down a flight of stairs to get it, but I called it exercise and considered myself blessed for my delightful sewing area. I sewed for sisters in my church, in our area and out of state. Now I have my machines set up in a little room next to my office—a much nicer location! My two younger sisters continue on with the work at the homes of the sisters I can no

longer serve. I go on Saturdays if I can and enjoy it so much.

I want to give you some ideas of ways that you can become a blessing to the sisters in your congregation. You don't always have to leave home to be able to lend a big helping hand. The following ideas are all things we have had personal experience with.

Did you ever wonder who plans the meals for the mothers who just had a baby or the family who just moved in?

When you plant your garden try to make each row a little bigger than you need, so extra produce can go to the moms who had forego the garden this year. Usually they wish they didn't have to, but their schedule was too full. Instead of tilling under the broccoli after you harvest the heads, continue to harvest the side shoots and freeze them for other sisters.

When you are fellowshiping on Sundays, try to leave the comfort zone of the girls your age. For one reason, you will be amazed at how much you can learn from your older, wiser sisters. For another reason, you can keep an open ear for the things they need done and are unable to get to. You will find out if their bean crop failed and you may be able to can a few extra quarts for them. You may find that they have a bunch of sewing to do before a big trip. You may find out if they are having company and need to have their house cleaned or if it is time for spring-cleaning.

Sometimes you can bring extra food to a fellowship meal to cover for a family who is right in the middle of a busy time. We always try to bring extra food to our Sunday fellowship meal to make up for a sister or two who might have just been glad to be able to make it to church! Did you ever wonder who plans the meals for the mothers who are recovering from childbirth or the family who recently moved in? Usually this task falls to a well-organized mother in the church. Even if she is well organized, you probably have more time available to set up meals for someone than she does. This time consuming job is a tremendous blessing and may be one task you can do. It also provides the opportunity to greet those making meals and find out how they're doing.

It is also easy to double a recipe when you are cooking for your family. This meal can then be given to a sister who needs it. A simple call in the middle of the day to let a sister know you will be bringing the meal that evening is enough to lift anyone's spirit. You will be amazed to hear the sister testify how she is sure the Lord led you to do that because it was a particularly busy day for her!

When canning season rolls around, pay attention to which sister's husband just picked up three or so bushels of pears for them to can. Canning season is a wonderful time to help and fellowship with the sisters. It is not hard to peel pears and talk at the same time! It will give you the opportunity to learn new ideas and ways to be more efficient in your work, and it gives you a wonderful opportunity to watch a mother interact with her children. She'll spend time training and teaching and guiding them. Watch her as she keeps order in her home and learn from the areas she excels in...and from the areas she doesn't. I have found the sisters I've worked for to be so honest with me. They have told me what God did in their lives to bring them certain victories they have in their homes, and how some of their weaknesses have caused problems that they now need to work through. They will gladly fulfill the role of Titus 2 in your life if you make yourself available to their years of lessons.



There is also a tremendous blessing in becoming the friend of a little child. They just love it when an older person pays them personal attention. They will quickly start to follow you around, seek your company, and follow your example. You have the chance to make an impact on a child's life right in your own congregation. I'm sure you've heard as many

testimonies as I have from adults who were influenced by someone when they were young. To this day they will tell you what a mark "So and So" made on their lives when they were just a child. I glean so much from the honesty of little children. I never wonder why Christ said we must become as little children.

Question & Answer

Question from Last Issue: *I am publishing a journal, but I can't generate responses—even short ones. I have invited readers to write material for us, and tried a question and answer page, but neither seemed to work. What can I do?*

I am writing in response to the question posed in the last issue of why people have not been responding to this journal.

Perhaps some people receiving this journal think that they are not good enough Christians to give their insights and ideas to other Christians. This could not be farther from the truth as there are no different degrees of “savedness.” There are different degrees of growth, and God has given us all different insights that we can share with each other. *“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”* (Ephesians 4:15-16) The staff of Abide is interested in whatever is on others’ hearts.

Maybe others think that the staff and writers of this journal are so far ahead spiritually, that we aren’t interested in what you have to say. That is definitely not the case. We are only sinners saved by grace. Our goal is to have *“growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”* by youth encouraging each other in love. (I am weak Christian and need lots of encouragement!☺)

You might say, “I have nothing to write,” or “I am not good at writing,” and so never try, but God may have been waiting for you to start before He gave you the words to write. Additionally, the editorial staff is here to help you write what is on your heart.

If you have anything to share—a short article, a short testimony, a short insight—please send it! If you have a question that you don’t know the answer to or something you need practical advice on, we will print it and see if any of our readers have insight on the matter. If you have a short insight that might answer another’s question or that may answer an unprinted question, we will print it with the question it answers.

Oh, that we would all have the heart that would ex-

claim:

*Suffer a sinner, whose heart overflows,
Loving his Savior to tell what he knows,
Once more to tell it, would I embrace;
I'm only a sinner—saved by grace!*
—James Gray

Andrew Rocke, Hortonville, Wisconsin

Question for Next Issue: *How should I respond to fear and anxiety. I know we are told to be anxious for nothing, but how do I stop? Where is the line between carefulness and concern, and worry?*



Serving Mothers: Practical Helps, cont.

The Bible speaks of other women who desired to be used of God by serving others. Proverbs 31:20 speaks of the virtuous woman who stretched out her hand to the poor and needy. Matthew 27:55 tells us of the many women who were ministering to Jesus. Romans 16:6 gives us Mary, who bestowed much labor.

Wouldn’t we all love to have the testimony and blessings of these and many other sisters in the Bible? Wouldn’t we all love to have a life-changing ministry—one that will change us and perhaps others also? Oh, that we might all become virtuous single sisters living our lives for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Allison Payette, 25, lives in Bear Lake, MI. She works with her dad in their family business. Abide thanks Allison for writing.

I Need Thee Every Hour—Annie Sherwood Hawks

Annie Sherwood was born on May 28, 1835, at Hoosick, New York. She started writing poems for newspapers at the age of fourteen. When she was twenty-four, she married Charles Hawks, and they moved to Brooklyn, New York.



One day in June 1872, at the age of thirty-seven and a mother of three, something happened. Mrs. Hawks explained it this way:

“I remember well the morning many years ago, when in the midst of the daily cares of my home, I was so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master. While wondering how one could live without Him either in joy or pain for any period of time, these words “I Need Thee Every Hour” were ushered into my mind—the thought at once taking full possession of me.

“Seating myself by the open window in the balmy air of that bright June day, I took up my pencil and the words were soon committed to paper, almost as they are sung today. It was only by accident, it seemed at the time, that a few months later my pastor, Robert Lowry, set them to music and for the first time, they were sung at a Sunday School Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Now of course, I can see God’s hand in it all. From there they were taken farther West and sung

by many thousands of voices before the echo came back to me—thrilling my heart with surprise and gladness.



“For me the hymn was prophetic rather than expressive of my own experiences at the time it was written, and I did not fully understand why it so touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long years after when the shadow of a great loss (It is thought that the “great loss” was the death of her husband) fell over my way, that I understood something of the comforting in the words I

*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.*

Refrain:

*I need Thee, O I need Thee,
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee!*

*I need thee every hour; stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.*

*I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.*

*I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.*

*I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.*

had been permitted to write and give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace.

“Now when I hear them sung, as I have sometimes by hundreds of voices in chorus, I find it difficult to think they were ever, consciously, my own thoughts or penned by my own hand.”

On January 3, 1918, Annie Sherwood Hawks, at almost 82 years of age, died in Bennington, Vermont.

Robert Lowry, who wrote the chorus and the composed the music, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 12, 1826, and died at Plainfield, New Jersey, on November 25, 1899. He wrote the music to “*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*,” “*Something For Thee*,” “*We’re Marching to Zion*,” and “*Follow On*,” and the words and music to “*Shall We Gather at the River*,” “*Nothing But the Blood*,” and “*Christ Arose*.”

It is interesting to note that this hymn caused another hymn to be written.

In 1893, at the World’s Fair Exposition in Chicago (World’s Columbian Exposition), after the Sunday afternoon service, Henry Varley said to Daniel Whittle, “You know we sang a song this morning that I know is a favorite of many, but you know, I feel that instead of singing “*I Need Thee Every Hour*” we should have a song that really shows our dependence on God every moment

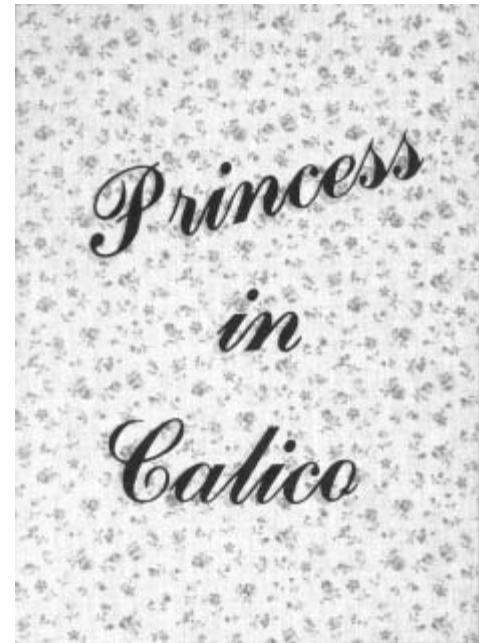
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Princess in Calico

-Review by Katrina Oberholtzer

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

John 12:24-25.



How true this was for Katura in the story *Princess in Calico*! Although the author of this book is unknown, the blessing and struggles that Katura experiences are known to many.

When Katura was seventeen, she lived with her father, stepmother, and several stepbrothers and sisters. She found the hard work and endless monotony on the farm very trying. In addition, her stepmother was anything but kind to her.

Before too long, she got an invitation (to her delight) to go and live with her uncle and his family in the city. Katura went and was finally able to live the life she always dreamed of. She was also able to further her education—Katura *loved* to study. During her stay at her uncle's house, she became a good friend with a dear older lady who suffered much, but through it all, continued to praise her Lord. It was not long after that Katura gave herself to the Lord. Now she was a daughter of the King! She learned much from this dear friend about the way of the cross, which helped her greatly in the years to come.

Then came a crisis in her life, and Katura chose to follow God's will. This decision led her back into a life of drudgery and care. However, as a daughter of the King, *she let her light shine!* She poured out her life for those around her and was always praising the Lord. Although her life was not what she would have chosen, she had joy because it was God's way!

We all find it easy to serve the Lord when we are doing something we enjoy and people comment on our good work. What if nobody notices the work we do

or things don't go the way we thought they should? Are we still cheerfully submitted to God's plan for us? Let us ever be faithful servants of the King!

Katrina Oberholtzer, 18, lives in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. Abide welcomes any of our readers to submit a book review. Never underestimate the power of a good book.

***Princess in Calico* is available from:**

Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc.

Crockett, KY 41413

(606) 522-4348

Hymn History (continued)

of the day.”

Daniel Whittle knew what to do. A short time later, he handed his daughter, May Whittle Moody (William Moody's wife), a poem and she wrote the music. Thus we have “*Moment by Moment*.”

*Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;
Moment by moment I've life from above;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.*

As we endeavor to be servants in our homes, let us remember when the trials and difficulties come, as they surely will, that Christ is our source of strength. Abide in Him! **AR**

His Grace *is* Sufficient—Yolanda Halteman

My family and I completed our fourth year in Ghana, West Africa on July 11, 2001. They have been four very stretching years—full of many lessons. I want to briefly tell how we came over, and of the things God has taught me through the last several years.

I sometimes marvel at the way God worked in bringing me to Africa. You see, I wasn't one who was just "champing at the bit" to come over to Africa. In fact, I struggled with the idea of going into an unknown land that I had never seen, never having been out of my safe comfortable home in America. It made me feel sad to think of leaving what I had grown up with and been familiar with to go to a land where everything is different—the food, the people, the culture—everything. I had to think of the friends I would be leaving behind, and of going to a place where I'd have to start all over making friends in a new culture.

Each year with its hardships and trials impresses even deeper in my heart that God's grace is sufficient.

I battled with the thought of going until God brought me to the place of surrender to His will. He had a perfect will for my life and He was big enough to see me through every trial or hardship I would face. He had always been faithful in the past, His grace was always sufficient, and I knew that if He was calling us, He would give us the grace to live it out. That's when peace came—when I laid down my will to follow what God was calling us to do. It's not until we step out and obey, that God can give us the grace we need to go through with what He's calling us to.

I found the good-byes painful, but God's grace gave me strength. It really wasn't as painful as I had imagined. I was resigned to God's will, and He gave me the grace to go through that difficult time. Even when we got here, I didn't find the culture shock as big as I had imagined. I actually quickly fell in love with the people! The times of homesickness weren't as painful as I had imagined they would be. Isn't it wonderful how God works? His grace *is* always sufficient! Our doubts and worries so often cloud our view of God's greatness and His ability to give us



strength one day at a time.

I have also learned many lessons of trust and faith in God. So often things come our way that we don't understand. There have been times when it feels like everything is going wrong. It can be little things like the water being off, needing to cook outside because the propane is all gone, having the electricity go out, and so on. Or it could be close friends getting discouraged and leaving the church, thieves, fights, and such like. But whatever the situation, God is continually teaching me to trust Him. Even if my view of the situation looks like the tangles and knots on the backside of a mother's needle work, God is making something beautiful on the topside. God knows what He needs to bring into our lives to teach us to lean more heavily on Him. He knows exactly what threads to use on the material of our lives to make a beautiful picture, though it may not make any sense at all to us feeble humans.

I've been realizing more and more that the reason we can't understand God's ways is because His ways are so far above ours—as far as the earth is from the Heaven. We sometimes can get impatient, asking God what He's doing. We often think He works too slow or too fast, or not like we were expecting Him to work. We try to figure out what He is doing, but just the fact that we aren't able to understand is proof in itself that He has some plan beyond our human thinking and it's going to be beautiful—something far beyond our comprehension.

Within the last several months, God had been speaking to my heart that I should have a class for the girls that come to church. I tried one time, and they seemed to lose interest. Then we had other things going, so I kept putting it off. I kept arguing within myself, saying that I didn't know if I could do it, and

many other “good” reasons I that came up with. I soon began to understand that I was actually being rebellious by not wanting to obey right away. Again, I was reminded that God couldn't step in and give me the grace to do it until I agreed to follow His way and obey His leading.

After having prayed that God would work out all the details, I was able to work out a time and place to have our class and we started. That first class was such a blessing to me! I knew I was in the center of God's will and the peace of God was flooding my soul. Oh, the sweetness of obedience! We still meet every Monday afternoon, and the girls continue to show an interest in coming. God doesn't give grace until we step out and obey. God's ways always work!

God doesn't give us grace today for tomorrow's hardships, but only as we need it.

These are just some of the things God has been teaching me over the last few years. I hope they will be an encouragement to you. Regardless if you are in America or across the seas, God's grace is always sufficient. Whether in the small everyday happenings or the things that feel too big for you, God wants to give you His inner strength and grace. Cast your cares on His strong shoulders. Dear Reader, if God is stirring in your heart a burden for the lost, whether in your own town or overseas, don't resist His voice because of uncertainties and fears of the unknown.

Each year with its hardships and trials impresses even deeper in my heart that God's grace *is* sufficient. There have been times when it felt like I couldn't handle one more thing, but even then, I found God pouring out His grace on me. I was able to take that one more thing that I didn't think I could! God never allows us to go through more than what we can handle, but is always there leading us and guiding us one step at a time.

I once heard a message of a martyr, soon to be burnt at the stake. He wanted to see if he would be able to handle the flames of the fire they would use to burn him in the morning, so he stuck his finger in the flame of the little candle he had in his prison cell. He didn't think he would

be able to handle the next day, as the pain seemed overwhelming. However, the next day at the stake, when he needed the grace, he was able to face the flames singing. Why? God doesn't give us grace today for tomorrow's hardships, but only one day at a time, one moment at a time as we need it. What a mighty God we serve!

*Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin, Just for today.
Let me no wrong or idle word unthinking say;
Set Thou a seal upon my lips, Father, today.*

*Let me be slow to do my will, prompt to obey;
Help me to sacrifice myself gladly today.
So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;
Still keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, thro' each today.*

Yolanda Halteman, 23, and her family are missionaries to Ghana, West Africa. Please pray for them as they preach the Gospel, and more importantly, live the Gospel to the people of Ghana.



**Little Brother on the floor,
Watches you do every chore,
Hears if you complaints outpour.
Be Careful!**

**Little Sister sees you pray,
Hope they'll be like you someday.
Hear the Master call and say:
“Be Faithful.”**

In the Next Issue...

The Walk of Faith

Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:26a–28

In This Issue...

Abiding at Home—The Test of Servanthood

Abide

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