



# **The Servant's Heart**

## **Philippians Two**



## The Servant's Heart

“The severest sin of Christians is a numbing lack of concern, an anesthetized attitude of ‘I’m in the fold. Why should I concern myself?’ It is not enough to call Jesus ‘Lord.’ He is King of kings and Lord of lords whether or not we are committed and obedient to Him. He will never be satisfied with us calling Him by divine titles until we can testify from the heart, ‘Jesus Christ is my Lord and Master.’” (C. Stanley, *Confronting Casual Christianity*)



# We Are Not Called To Be Served But To Serve

- Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable (rational, logical - prb) service.”
- Luke 17:10 - “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'”
- It doesn't count until we go above and beyond the call of duty, until we act entirely from unselfish devotion.



## What Characterizes The Servant's Heart?

- **Absolute loyalty**
- Gen. 24:9-49 (Vs. 9-10) - "So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter. Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor."



## What Characterizes The Servant's Heart?

- **Unwavering love**
- 2Sam. 12:18 - “Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, ‘Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!’”



# What Characterizes The Servant's Heart?

- **Undaunted courage**
- 2Sam. 23:14-17 - “David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. And David said with longing, ‘Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!’ So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD. And he said, ‘Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?’ Therefore he would not drink it...”



## What Characterizes The Servant's Heart?

- **Service before all other concerns**
- 2Kings 5:13 - “And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, ‘My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, “Wash, and be clean”?’”



## Our Savior Came As A Servant, Not As A Celebrity

- John 12:32 - “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
- He is remembered, not because he had the power to come down from the cross, but because He had the will to stay there.
- Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”





# Our Savior Came As A Servant, Not As A Celebrity

John 13:3-5, 12-17 - “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded... So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.’”



# The Theme Of Philippians Is The Servant's Heart

- Paul - (2:17) "I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith."
- Epaphroditus - (2:30) "For the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life."
- Timothy - (2:20) "No one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state."
- Jesus Christ - (2:7) "Taking the form of a bondservant."
- Euodia, Syntyche, Clement, un-named others, and the Philippians themselves
- You and Me - (2:3) "In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."



# Epaphroditus: For The Work Of Christ He Came Close To Death

- **Worker** - “Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need” (2:25).
- **Warrior** - “Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me” (2:30).
- **Messenger** - “For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick” (2:26).
- **Minister** - “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such men in reputation” (2:29).



# The Servant's Heart

“Be the reason someone believes in the goodness of people.” (G. Kent)