

**serve
like
Jesus**



Serve Like Jesus

Finding Freedom by Putting Others First

Introduction

Slowing Down to See What Matters Most

Modern life moves at an exhausting pace.

Notifications constantly compete for attention. Calendars overflow with responsibilities. Social media invites endless comparisons, while technology promises greater connection but often leaves people feeling more isolated than ever before.

The greatest distractions, however, are not always found on a screen.

Sometimes the greatest distraction is self.

The pursuit of recognition, comfort, achievement, and personal success can quietly shape priorities until life revolves around individual desires rather than God's purposes.

Scripture offers a different invitation.

It calls believers to slow down, notice the people around them, and rediscover the joy of living as servants rather than spectators.

King David wrote:

"Stop your fighting, and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth." Psalm 46:10 (CSB)

Stillness creates space for God to reshape the heart.

A quiet heart begins to notice what a hurried life often misses.

People.

Needs.

Opportunities.

Divine appointments.

The Christian life is not about earning God's favor through busyness.

It is learning to live from His grace while giving that grace away to others.

Chapter One

The Greatest Distraction May Be the Person in the Mirror

Most people assume their greatest obstacles are external.

A demanding schedule.

A difficult culture.

Financial pressures.

Technology.

Social media.

While these challenges are real, Scripture points to something even deeper.

Pride.

Self-centeredness.

The desire to place personal comfort above God's calling.

Paul writes:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3–4 (CSB)

These words challenge every generation.

Human nature naturally asks, *What's in this for me?*

The gospel teaches believers to ask a different question:

How can this glorify God and serve someone else?

This shift transforms every relationship.

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Marriage becomes less about personal fulfillment and more about sacrificial love.

Friendships become opportunities to encourage rather than compete.

Church becomes a family where people arrive asking not only what they will receive, but what they can give.

This is the beginning of true servanthood.

Chapter Two

The Heart of a Servant

Serving is something people can do.

Servanthood is someone people become.

Many acts of service can still be motivated by pride.

People may serve to receive praise.

To gain influence.

To feel important.

To earn approval.

Jesus calls His followers much deeper.

Servanthood becomes an identity shaped by humility.

It quietly notices needs before recognition.

It welcomes interruptions.

It finds joy in hidden acts of kindness that may never be acknowledged by anyone except God.

Jesus taught:

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Matthew 20:26 (CSB)

God measures greatness differently than the world.

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The world applauds those who are served.

Christ honors those who serve.

Simple acts often carry eternal significance.

Listening carefully to someone who is hurting.

Offering hospitality without seeking recognition.

Protecting another person's reputation.

Encouraging someone quietly.

Praying faithfully behind the scenes.

Serving is often most powerful when no one notices except the Father.

Chapter Three

Looking to Jesus

No greater example of humility exists than Jesus Christ.

Paul writes:

"Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 2:5 (CSB)

He then describes one of the most breathtaking portraits of Christ found anywhere in Scripture.

"...who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant..." Philippians 2:6–7 (CSB)

The eternal Son of God willingly stepped into humanity.

The Creator entered His creation.

The King became a servant.

The One worthy of worship washed the feet of sinners.

Ultimately, Jesus humbled Himself completely.

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"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross." Philippians 2:8 (CSB)

Every excuse for selfishness falls silent at the cross.

If Christ willingly surrendered heaven for humanity, His followers can certainly surrender pride for one another.

Servanthood is not weakness.

It is Christlikeness.

Chapter Four

Hidden Service, Eternal Impact

The world celebrates visible success.

God often works through hidden faithfulness.

Some of the most significant acts of ministry never appear on a platform.

Cleaning.

Repairing.

Preparing meals.

Writing encouraging notes.

Praying faithfully.

Showing up consistently.

Listening patiently.

These quiet expressions of love build God's kingdom every day.

Jesus reminded His disciples:

"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you." John 13:15 (CSB)

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He forever redefined greatness.

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Leadership became service.

Authority became humility.

Power became sacrifice.

Every believer has opportunities each day to follow that same example.

The smallest acts of obedience often become the greatest demonstrations of love.

Chapter Five

A Different Kind of Greatness

Culture often measures success by influence, wealth, recognition, and achievement.

God measures greatness by faithfulness.

Paul concludes his description of Christ with these powerful words:

"For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name." Philippians 2:9 (CSB)

Jesus never promoted Himself.

The Father exalted Him.

This teaches an important lesson.

Believers are not responsible for creating their own significance.

Their calling is faithfulness.

God is responsible for the results.

This truth frees people from constant comparison.

It removes the pressure to perform for approval.

Instead, every act of service becomes an offering of worship.

One day, every human achievement will fade.

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Only God's kingdom will remain.

"...so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:10–11 (CSB)

History is moving toward one glorious conclusion.

Christ will be exalted.

Serving Him today is preparation for that eternal day.

Conclusion

The Joy of Living Unplugged

The Christian life is not defined by constant activity.

Neither is it measured by applause.

It is measured by faithfulness.

When believers unplug from the endless pursuit of recognition, comparison, and self-promotion, they discover something far richer.

They discover the joy of becoming more like Jesus.

Servanthood reshapes the heart.

It transforms relationships.

It strengthens churches.

It reflects the gospel.

Most importantly, it points others toward Christ.

Paul's challenge remains just as powerful today:

"Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 2:5 (CSB)

Following Jesus means more than admiring His humility.

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It means practicing it.

Every conversation.

Every opportunity to serve.

Every unseen act of kindness.

Every sacrifice made for another person becomes a testimony that the gospel truly changes lives.

The world encourages people to climb higher.

Jesus invites His followers to kneel lower.

And in that place of humble service, they discover a life filled with joy, purpose, and the unmistakable presence of God.

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