

The Importance of the Work of the Ministry

July 8, 2012

Serving is embedded into the fabric of our relationship with Jesus

Joh 13:12-17 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

When he had finished washing their feet

1. **Diakonos = serving = ministry**
 - a. Washing feet was a servant's task - not glory in the limelight - dirty / menial

Do you understand what I have done for you?

2. **Serving / Ministry goes against the grain of self interested humanity**
 - a. More interested in having our needs met versus meeting the needs of others
Mat 20:21-28 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ... 26 Instead, whoever wants to become great among you **must be your servant**, [*KJV your minister*] 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, [*KJV not to be ministered unto, but to minister*] and to give his life as a ransom for many."

You should do as I have done for you

3. **If He is our Master, Lord and Teacher**
 - a. If the Lord & Teacher washed feet, then we wash feet
 - b. I have set you an example...that we should do the same
 - c. No servant is greater than the master

You know these things - you will be blessed if you do them

When we serve others we are serving Jesus

Mat 25:35-40 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers

and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Mat 25:42-45 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, **and did not help you?** [KJV minister to you]' 45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Jesus touches others as we serve

The grace or gift that you have is **something of Christ** given to you so that **you can touch another person's life powerfully with something of God.**

Even something as simple as receiving comfort *from God*

2Co 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble **with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.**

God makes his appeal through us

2Co 5:18-20 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, **as though God were making his appeal through us.** We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

When we serve others it is an expression of God's grace

1Pe 4:10-11 **Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,** as faithful stewards of **God's grace** in its various [*multi-faceted, manifold, varied*] forms . 11 If anyone speaks, **they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.** If anyone serves, they should **do so with the strength God provides,** so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace = The divine influence in the heart that is reflected in the life

The grace of God extended to us and manifested in the way of the gifts we have received is the process the Lord uses to minister through us to others...Our effectiveness does not come by relying on our wisdom, but by relying on His grace.

Rom 12:3-8 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have **different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.** If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is servicing, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it

is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

His grace & hard work

1Co 15:9-10 For I am **the least of the apostles** and **do not even deserve to be called an apostle**, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

The role of the 5-fold ministry

Eph 4:7-16 But unto every one of us is **given grace** according **to the measure** of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men.** 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And **he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;** 12 For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the **measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**