

Jesus Came to Serve

Hagerstown Church of Christ

02-Jan-2022

Service and Suffering Are Intertwined

- **Rom 12:1-2** — I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship** [**reasonable service** – *logikos latreia*]. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by **testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

This is the Second Half of a Sermon: To **Suffer** and **Serve**

- Jesus Came to **Suffer** and **Serve**
 - We also are to **Suffer**, prepared for endurance and designed for resilience, tested, proven, we have received the seal of approval; **Tried & True** [We Are to Suffer] - 07-Nov-2021
 - We also are to **Serve**, to be prepared for a life of **Servanthood**, meeting the needs of others, putting *their* needs above our own, serving **as to** the Lord

Jesus Came to **Serve**

- “the Son of Man came **not to be served** but to **serve**, and to **give** his life as a ransom for many.” — **Matt. 20:28; Mk 10:45** ESVi
- The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified **his servant Jesus**, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the **Holy** and **Righteous One**, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the **Author of life**, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. — **Acts 3:13-15** ESVi

Jesus, the One Who **Serves**

- A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But **not** so with you. Rather, let the **greatest** among you become as the youngest, and the **leader** as one who **serves**. For who is the **greater**, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? **But I am among you as the one who serves [diakoneō]. — Luke 22:24-27**

Jesus Demonstrated Service



- **John 13:1-20** – Jesus example of washing the disciples feet, *including Judas* (discussed in Bible class this morning).
 - A common courtesy and custom that had been **neglected**
 - Jesus **performed** (the duty of the servant or slave)
 - His service included his **enemies** and those that would **fail** him!
 - V.18 “He who ate my bread has lifted his **heel** against me” (Ps 41:9)
 - V.11 He washed that very **heel!**

We Are to Be Awake, Waiting, Ready

- The wise servants [see **Luke 12:35-48**]...
- “**Stay dressed for action** [**perizōnnymyi**] and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are *waiting* for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him *at once* when he comes and *knocks*. Blessed are those **servants** [**doulos**] whom the master finds **awake** when he comes.
- ...
- ...

Ready to **Serve** and Be **Served**

- The wise servants [see **Luke 12:35-48**]...
- “**Stay dressed for action** [**perizōnnymyi**] and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are *waiting* for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him *at once* when he comes and *knocks*. Blessed are those **servants** [**doulos**] whom the master finds **awake** when he comes.
- Truly, I say to you, **he will dress himself for service** [**perizōnnymyi**] and have them recline at table, and **he will come and serve** [**diakoneō**] them.” (**Luke 12:35-37** ESVi)
- Notice **who** is serving **who** [just like John 13]!

Perizōnnymi

- Dressed for action
- Gird-up Your Loins for **Service**
- ...For **Battle**
- ...For **Action**
- 6x, to gird one's self in preparation for bodily **motion** or **exertion**

How to Gird Up Your Loins



1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!


Greatest Commandments

- And you shall **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.
(Mark 12:30 ESVi)
 - **Loving God is to Serve God**
- The second is this: 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:31)
 - **Loving Others is to Serve Others**

Service, is Part Of Growing Up

- 1 Corinthians 13:11 — When I was a **child**, I spoke like a **child**, I thought like a **child**, I reasoned like a **child**. When I became a **man**, I gave up **childish ways**.
- **What is the context of this verse?**

Love — 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- Love is **patient** and **kind**;
 - Love does **not** envy or boast; it is **not** arrogant or rude.
 - It does **not** insist on its own way; it is **not** irritable or resentful; it does **not** rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
 - Love **bears** all things, **believes** all things, **hopes** all things, **endures** all things.
 - **Love never ends.**
 - **Agapaō — 551x**
 - To love, value, esteem
 - Feel or manifest generous concern for
 - Be faithful towards, to delight in
- 
- Agape love is a **decision**, not a **feeling**
 - **Action** leads **feeling**, not the other way around

Maturity is “Servant Leadership” ^{1/2}

- “Childish Ways” =
 - **Storgi** – Affection
 - **Philia** – Friendship
 - **Eros** – Sexual, love between a couple
- “Adult Ways” =
 - **Agape** — Unconditional love is **spiritual, emotional, and physical**
 - It places the needs of others **above** our own needs and comfort

Maturity is “Servant Leadership” 2/2

- Therefore...

 - A **boy** is concerned with **his own** comfort, his own needs
 - **Self-love**
 - Growing up, **becoming a man** (or woman) is learning to be, deciding to be, concerned with the comfort and needs of **others**
 - **Godly Love, self-less Love**



Women, children, and aged first

Summary

- **Service** and **Suffering** are intertwined
- Jesus came to **suffer** and to **serve**, and he demonstrated service
- We are to **suffer** and to **serve**, to gird ourselves prepared to serve
- Jesus taught us that we need to Serve
 - **Serve God** — the greatest commandment
 - **Serve Others** — the second commandment
- Part of growing up, in Christ, is to serve; **Agape Love is to Serve**
 - We must decide to put others' needs above our own
 - To render service, generous concern, even to those “undeserving”
 - We need to lead through service, outdoing each other in love

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are **serv**ing [Douleuo̅] the Lord Christ. (**Col 3:23-24**)

Other Passages

- Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you **serve** [Latreuo].”” (**Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8** ESVi)
- “that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might **serve** [Latreuo] him without fear” (**Luke 1:74** ESVi)
- “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but *through love* **serve** one another.” (**Gal. 5:13** ESVi)
- Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are **serving** [Douleuō] the Lord Christ. (**Col 3:23-24**)
- As each has received a gift, use it to **serve** [Diakaneō] one another, as good **stewards** of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever **serves**, as one who **serves** by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (**1 Peter 4:10-11**)

Some Related Greek Words

- **Diakoneō** — to wait, attend upon, serve; to be an attendant or assistant; minister to, relieve, assist, or supply with the necessities of life, provide the means of living; to convey in charge, administer; to fill the the office or perform the duties of a **diakonos** (deacon).
- **Douleuō** — 25x to be a slave or servant; to be in slavery or subjection; to discharge the duties of a slave or servant; to serve, be occupied in the service of, be devoted, subservient; met. to be enthralled, involved in a slavish service, spiritually or morally.
- **Doulos** — 126x, a male slave, or servant; a female slave, or handmaiden; one pledged or bound to serve
- **Syndoulos** — 10x, a fellow-slave, fellow-servant; a fellow-minister of Christ.
- **Perizonnyimi** — 6x, to gird one's self in preparation for bodily motion or exertion;
- **Latreuo** — to be a **servant, serve**; to render religious service and homage, **worship**; to offer sacrifices, present offerings
- **Latreia** — **service, servitude**; religious service, worship