

Teacher Devotional

Lesson 2 - I Will Serve Others!

BIBLE LESSON: The Last Supper and washing of the disciples' feet - John 13:1-17

BIBLE VERSE: "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NLT)

When you are the new girl, the rookie, or the low man on the totem pole, you get stuck with all the junk jobs and busy work that others do not have time for or do not want to do. It is considered "paying your dues." You work hard to prove your self and move up the ladder so that, eventually, you can dump stuff you do not want to do on someone else. It is the way the world works.

It was not that different in Jesus' time. The lowest servant got stuck with the lowest job. That job was washing the feet of the house's guests. Jesus had already pointed out to the disciples that leaders of the time flaunted their authority over those below them, but that they should be different. But He must have noticed that they were not getting it. Because later, Jesus shocks them by washing their feet. This might not seem a big deal. "So, what? Jesus did a chore." Except that Peter's reaction shows us how shocking this was. Peter, at first, refuses to allow Jesus to wash his feet. It was too shameful in Peter's eyes for their leader to stoop that low. Later Jesus explains that to be like Him, they all must follow His example. That goes for us as well.

When we serve others, we are not "paying our dues." It is not a role we will ever promote out of. But we honor Jesus and pay Him His due, by following His example of service. As a follower of Jesus, there is no task too low, because there is no higher purpose than serving others.

"But Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.'" Matthew 20:25-27 (NLT)

"Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example."
1 Peter 5:3 (NLT)