

Travesty – Part IV Review

Servanthood vs. Entitlement

A common thread this week in the script is servanthood. Steven, Bob and Myra have the attitude of a servant. They have the opposite of what the world says which entitlement is. Entitlement means:

- The fact of having a right to something
- The amount to which a person has a right
- The belief that one is inherently deserving of privileges or special treatment.

All three could easily have this kind of attitude, after all, they've worked hard, they've done their due diligence, they've sacrificed, and they've worked their way to the top in their individual worlds. All of us, regardless of our place in society, can have a sense of entitlement; I'm my own boss, I answer to no one, I can do what I want, when I want and how I want, I'm **entitled** to it.

Jesus is our ultimate and supreme example of being a servant and His example is exactly opposite of entitlement. Philippians 2:4-7 says; "*Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility], who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it]; but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man].*"

Paul goes on to say in Philippians 3:7-8; "*But whatever former things were gains to me [as I thought then], these things [once regarded as advancements in merit] I have come to consider as loss [absolutely worthless] for the sake of Christ [and the purpose which He has given my life]. But more than that, I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequaled]. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ.*"

Jesus says the following:

- Matthew 20:25-28; "*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles have absolute power and lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them [tyrannizing them]. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your [willing and humble] slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin].*"
- Matthew 23:11; "*The greatest among you will be your servant.*"
- Mark 9:35; "*Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'*"

What does our work life/employment life look like? We're diligent, show up on time or early so we hit the ground running, we get our work projects done for the day, we always want to add value to what we do, we seek to find ways to make improvements, be a team player ... and the list goes on and on, right! We know that at the end of the day, we'll get our financial reward and maybe a bonus here or there. But even in all of our work, be it as an employee or employer, Paul says in Colossians 3:23-24 to do it as unto the Lord; "*whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.*"

So with our best efforts in our work world we're to do it as unto the Lord, how much more ought we to do it in serving Christ Jesus. All believers are called to ministry (servanthood) as it says in Matthew 28:19-20; *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Christ emptied himself of his entitlements to become a bond-slave, a servant. Do you have a sense of entitlement or a belief of servanthood?

