

Servanthood: Living Christ's Example in Everyday Life

1. *Opening and Scripture*

A. *Welcome and prayer for God's guidance*

Good morning, everyone! Today I'll be presenting how each of us can be a servant of God in our everyday lives. Just by the way we live our lives, we express God's love for us and we can spread that love to those we encounter each day.

First of all, Jesus was the perfect servant. Jesus said it himself in Mark 10:45, "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve..."

B. *Personal greeting: share brief heart-story of what servanthood means to me*

I'll be showing you examples from my life and from events in the Bible that will show you that by following Christ, through service to others, we are serving the Lord.

I want to share with you a brief story from my early childhood that started me on the journey of servanthood. My older sisters were both born with a neuromuscular disorder that made them quadriplegic. When we would go out sight-seeing on vacation, my parents and I would take turns pushing them around in their wheelchairs. I never realized at the time that this was an unusual thing to do when going out on vacation. Granted, I rarely saw other youngsters helping their siblings, but I just took turns helping my sisters as a normal part of our family's outings. While I was participating in everyday activities, I was living out being a Servant.

It is this sort of normal involvement in our everyday world that I want to highlight in my presentation today. Through events in my life and from Biblical stories, I'll show you how we can all be servants.

But before I can relate to you some of the ways that I'm the Lord's servant, I need to start with the Lord Himself.

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2. *The Example of Christ the Servant*

A. *Jesus' radical humility*

1. *Washing the disciples' feet (John 13:1–17)*

One of the most commonly cited examples of Jesus' willingness to serve others is when he washed the disciple's feet. In John 13:1-17 he describes Jesus washing the feet of His disciples during the Last Supper. It begins with Jesus knowing His hour had come to return to the Father. In a profound act of humility and love, He removes His garments, takes a towel, and washes each disciple's feet—an act typically reserved for servants. After the washing, Jesus explains the significance: if He, their Lord and Teacher, has washed their feet, they too must wash one another's feet. **He sets an example of servant leadership and love.**

2. *Naturist tie-in*

This passage is also often debated in Christian Naturist circles as to whether Jesus removed only His outer garments or was He nude while he performed the washing. In ancient times, those who did manual labor as servants, often performed their work unclothed. Then, being unclothed was literally one of the signs of servant status. Within such a cultural context, Jesus' act of stripping naked would have very poignantly communicated His intent to take the role of a *servant* before His disciples. As Naturists, we can appreciate the point Jesus is trying to make: that He is a *servant* (who commonly worked nude). His nudity emphasizes that he is acting in the role of a servant as he performs the washing task.

3. *Serving without seeking accolade*

We see Jesus is going about performing a simple servant's activity without seeking any accolades or notoriety for his actions. Service does not need to be flashy or elaborate; it is shown by Jesus to be a simple act of humility.

B. *The purpose of His service*

1. *Invitation to follow His pattern*

When Jesus completed the washing, he informed his disciples that they also need to serve others, just as He himself came to serve. If our Lord and Teacher can turn the tables and wash other's feet, we need to be able to set aside our false sense of superiority and take care of others. By serving others, we are sharing God's love. He invited his Disciples, and by extension, us, to follow his pattern and serve others, too.

After seeing how Jesus showed his Disciples how to be a Servant, I'll present a few items along my life's journey that provide examples of servanthood in everyday life.

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3. My Journey of Servanthood

A. *Childhood lessons: small acts at home that shaped my heart*

I'll return to my childhood and my family where service to members of your family are acts of Servanthood.

Besides the larger family vacation opportunities to help my family while traveling around, being a servant took place throughout the day. Since my sisters couldn't move themselves from room to room, they relied on their parents and myself to get around. Something as simple as getting their glasses cleaned to more extensive tasks related to eating dinner involved a range of services. Each time I served them, I was giving of myself. I needed to have empathy for their needs and place my needs behind me, while I took on their needs.

As I got older, I expanded my service opportunities by entering the military and eventually serving my country in the Air Force for 27 years.

B. *Military service: serving country as a tangible expression of faith*

Now as a military officer, you have to think of those under your command and make sure they are able to perform at their best. Service to your country depends on making sure you are focused on your mission and doing your best to complete it with honor and dignity. Servanthood means dedicating yourself to completing the objectives of your mission through caring for those who serve with you.

While my military career provided me with the opportunity to defend our nation in service to others, it made me aware of an even bigger purpose: serving our Lord and Savior.

C. *Church ministry: planting seeds through hospitality, teaching, hands-on help*

Throughout my life, I've always been aware of my direct service to the Lord through my church. As a Catholic, I've attended weekly Mass and have received my sacraments. With my current parish, I've taken a more active role as a Sacristan, who helps to setup the items used at Mass, such as the chalice, and Tabernacle that holds the consecrated hosts. Additionally, I'm a Eucharistic Minister who passes out the communion hosts.

Servanthood can take many forms at your church, from helping to teach religious education to youngsters and adults, to singing in the choir. I encourage you to investigate the many ministries available and become a participant in one or more of them. You'll be surprised at how much more you receive than what you provide in your service.

These examples from my life highlight that Servanthood is a part of everyday experience. I'll now show how servanthood can be put into action with some simple guiding principles.

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4. Servanthood in Action

A. *At home: listening first, meeting needs without being asked*

Starting at home, a key to being a good servant is to be a good listener. Show empathy to those around you, and as best as you can, anticipate their needs and offer assistance before it is asked. Be aware that sometimes others want to do things themselves first, so be cautious in jumping to another's aid when it is unwelcomed.

B. *In the workplace: offering excellence, humility, and compassion*

Another key area to be a good servant is at work. Whether it is at a formal office, within a virtual space or as a volunteer, serve with excellence, humility and compassion. Others will recognize your sincerity and appreciate your efforts of good-will to the organization.

C. *In the community: volunteer hours, mentoring, neighborhood outreach*

True servanthood begins when we step beyond our comfort zone and into community. Whether it's offering volunteer hours at a local shelter, mentoring a young person who needs guidance, or simply showing up for a neighbor in need—each act becomes a living testimony of Christ's love in action.

D. *Unexpected arenas: using unique passions (like naturism) to build trust and openness*

Servanthood often unfolds in places the world doesn't expect. Jesus Himself modeled this in John 13, when He knelt to wash the disciples' feet—a task reserved for the lowliest servant. He didn't choose a pulpit or a throne; He chose a towel. Likewise, when we follow our unique passions—even those that challenge convention, like naturism—we create spaces of trust and authenticity. In those moments, we echo Christ's humility, serving not for recognition, but to reveal grace in our communities.

I've expressed opportunities in your daily lives where you have been a servant. You have probably not even realized some of the moments where you were being a good servant to others. I'd like to briefly identify some steps you can take to actively cultivate a servant's heart.

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5. Cultivating a Servant's Heart

A. Daily disciplines

1. *Prayerful surrender of pride*
2. *Scripture meditation on servanthood passages*

B. Practical steps

1. *Identify one need around you each week*
2. *Commit to simple acts of kindness*



Steps to Cultivate a Servant's Heart Through Daily Prayer

1. *Begin with Humble Surrender*

Start each day by acknowledging God's sovereignty and laying down your pride. Pray: "Lord, I surrender my ego, my agenda, and my need for recognition. Empty me of self so I may be filled with Your Spirit."

2. *Ask for Clarity and Direction*

Invite God to guide your steps. Pray: "Show me where I can serve today. Open my eyes to the needs around me—at home, at work, in my community."

3. *Pray to decrease me so that You may increase*

John the Baptist said in John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Pray: "Lord, decrease me today—my pride, my need to be seen, my desire to control—so that You may increase in me. Let Your Spirit lead, Your love shine, and Your will be done through my life."

4. *Listen in Stillness*

After praying, take a few moments of silence. Let God speak through impressions, Scripture, or the quiet nudges of the Spirit. Servanthood often begins with listening.

5. *Commit to One Act of Service*

End your prayer by committing to a specific act of kindness or service that day. It could be a word of encouragement, a helping hand, or simply being present for someone in need.

As we pray to identify ways to serve, we must be aware that God is always with us and giving us the courage and strength to carry on. We aren't doing this alone. I'd like to bring you back to the story of Gideon from the Book of Judges, Chapter 6.

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6. We do not serve alone, Jesus is at our side

A. Quick overview of Gideon and his doubts

B. God was with him to overcome insurmountable odds

C. We need to be aware that as we go out to serve that the Lord is always with us to inspire and help us through the task

Gideon was called by God at a time when Israel was oppressed and afraid. Though he doubted his own strength and questioned whether God was truly with him, the Lord patiently reassured him: "I will be with you" (Judges 6:16). With only 300 men, Gideon overcame a vast Midianite army—not by might, but by obedience and God's power.

His story reminds us that we do not serve alone. Just as God stood beside Gideon, Jesus stands with us today. As we go out to serve—in our homes, workplaces, and communities—we can trust that the Lord is always present to inspire, strengthen, and guide us through every task.

As I come to the end of my views on Servanthood, I'd like to offer you a challenge that will help you to internalize and understand what it means to be a servant for Jesus.

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7. Challenge Invitation and Response

A. *Challenge: Who here will follow Jesus' example this week?*

I offer you a challenge: "Who here will follow Jesus' example this week?"
I hope we all will accept this call to serve.

B. *Call to decision: commit in heart to one specific act of service*

To help you accept this challenge, I ask you to reflect in prayerful meditation to commit to *one* specific act of service. Try to identify *one* action that you can take that is slightly beyond your usual daily activities. One that you will perform intentionally, with purpose.

C. *Short prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to empower us*

Holy Spirit,
We invite You now to fill us afresh. Empower us to walk in humility, to speak with grace, and to serve with joy. As we step into the coming week, guide our hearts, our hands, and our words—so that in all we do, Christ may be seen.
Amen.

Before I wrap up and we all head off for lunch, I'd like to hear your impressions and feelings on Servanthood. Please join in and share your thoughts on these couple of questions:

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8. Interactive Guided Question Period (5–10 minutes)

A. Question prompts:

1. Where have you felt God calling you to serve more boldly?
 - a) I've provided examples of how we serve through everyday actions
 - b) I've also shown how we can be intentional servants
 - c) Please share with us an event in your life that provided service to others.
2. What barriers hold you back from everyday acts of service?
 - a) Is it shyness or embarrassment?
 - b) Afraid of failing or being criticized?
 - c) Share things that have stopped you from being a willing servant.

Thank you for sharing those events in your life.

Let's close with a prayer:

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9. Closing Prayer and Benediction

- A. *Thank God for each story shared*
- B. *Ask for grace to become servants in word and deed*
- C. *Blessing: May Christ's humility guide us as we go forth to serve*

Our Father and our God,

We thank You for the stories shared today—testimonies of Your faithfulness, Your mercy, and Your power to redeem. Each voice, each life, is a reminder that You are still at work in this world.

We ask for Your grace. Help us to be servants—not just in what we say, but in how we live. May our hands be ready to help, our hearts ready to love, and our lives ready to reflect Jesus Christ.

And now, may the humility of Christ go before us. May His Spirit guide our steps, His love fill our hearts, and His truth shine through our deeds.

In the mighty name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.

I know you are all anxiously awaiting our lunch. I'll be here until Sunday afternoon. Feel free to reach out to me and we can share more stories of servanthood in our everyday life.