

UNIT 6

THE SERVANT MIND

Hymn Part 3

Christ's Servanthood

*Jesus "made himself of no reputation,
and took upon him the form of a servant."*

PHILIPPIANS 2:7



DAY 1

Two Reasons for Servanthood

DAY 2

Serving God and Others

DAY 3

Characteristics of a Servant Mind, Part 1

DAY 4

Characteristics of a Servant Mind, Part 2

DAY 5

Characteristics of a Servant Mind, Part 3

Why You Will Find This Unit Helpful

You will learn that having the servant mind of Christ frees God to do mighty works in and through your life. As you study the characteristics and example of Christ's servanthood, God will work to conform you to that same image of servanthood.

Lifelong Objective

In Christ you will take on the form of a servant and serve God and others with the heart and mind of a servant.

Summary of God's Work in You

Christ's servant mind in you facilitates the mental quality of willingness. God's goal is Kingdom business. Your growth in servanthood can be measured only by Christ's example. Christ enables your servanthood in His role as Master. Christ leads you.

Unit Learning Goals

- You will know two reasons for being a servant.
- You will demonstrate your lowness before God.
- You will understand the importance of serving God and others.
- You will know 14 characteristics of servanthood.
- You will indicate your willingness for God to develop these characteristics in your life.
- You will demonstrate your submission to God as your Master.

What You Will Do to Begin Developing a Servant Mind

- You will ask God to mold you into the image of His Righteous Servant, Jesus Christ.
- You will look at ways Jesus demonstrated 14 characteristics of servanthood.
- You will see how the characteristics of servanthood free God to do His work in and through you.
- You will give God permission to give you any assignment as His servant.

Scripture Memory Verse

"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord"
(Matt. 10:25).

Lifelong Helps Related to This Unit

Servanthood Instrument (p. 240)

The Mind of Christ Cards Related to This Unit

- 4A. Unit 6: Scripture Memory—Matthew 10:25
- 18A. The Servant Mind 1
- 18B. The Servant Mind 2
- 19A. The Servant Mind 3
- 19B. The Servant Mind 4

Optional DVD Messages by T. W. Hunt

- Session 3, Part 1: His Servanthood
- Session 3, Part 2: His Servanthood



DAY 1

TWO REASONS FOR SERVANTHOOD

Today's Bible Meditations
Jesus "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant"

(Phil. 2:7).

"From everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more"

(Luke 12:48, NASB).

Name of Christ for Today
Righteous Servant
(Isa. 53:11)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Jesus, Your life here on earth reflected Your identity as the Righteous Servant. You were righteous, and You were a Servant. I want to be like You. Please work in me to help me develop a servant mindset. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

At the center of the mind of Christ is the servant mind. The third part of the hymn focuses on Christ's servanthood: He "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant" (Phil. 2:7). Christ's entire life was one of a Servant. The great messianic passages predicted Jesus as a Servant: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth" (Isa. 42:1). Isaiah identified Christ as a Righteous Servant: "As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:11, NASB).

Many people in the Bible were called servants or assumed a deliberate servant role. The list includes Abraham, Isaac, Israel, Moses, Samuel, David, Job, Simeon, Paul, Peter, Timothy, James, Jude, and others. They were servants because they chose to worship the one true God.

2. If God prepared a list of His servants today, would you want to be included on that list? Check your response: Yes No

Servanthood: A Lost Concept

We have difficulty understanding the real meaning of servanthood. When domestic servants were common, the aspects of servanthood—humility, subjection to authority, obedience—were evident. Our need for human servants has lessened with technology like computers, microwave ovens, washing machines, and no-wax floors. Even though any employee of another is a servant, the understanding of servanthood is often missing in democracies. Democracies emphasize equality. Employees are more concerned with rights than responsibilities or submission.

Rulers do not have the authority they once had. A dictatorship is a horror in public opinion. Few kings have absolute authority. From the standpoint of democracy, these developments have provided increased comfort and happiness. But they have caused us to lose an understanding of biblical servanthood. Social environment denounces a willing subjection to another person. Refusal to submit ourselves to others often carries over in our refusal to submit to other believers, to the church, or perhaps even to God.

3. Which of the following is true in your opinion? Check one.

Most Christians have a good view of servanthood, and they regularly practice mutual submission to one another.

Most Christians have a poor understanding of servanthood, and they resist submission to one another.

Many Christians are more concerned with the provision of privileges and personal rights than with the joy of service.

Two Reasons for Servanthood

The Bible gives two reasons why we should be a servant. First, it is a command. Philippians 2:7 tells us to think like Jesus, who “took upon him the form of a servant.” We are to think like a servant. Many of Jesus’ parables describe the relationships in God’s kingdom as that of servants with a king or master. One truth of the parables is that servants will be called to give an account of their servanthood. In like manner Jesus will call His servants to give an account of their servanthood. He expects us to be His servant.

*1. Servanthood
is a command.*

 4. State one reason you should be a servant.

 5. How would Jesus evaluate your servanthood today? Check one.

- Well done. You have been a faithful servant and a good manager.
- Poorly done. You have been wicked and lazy in your service and a poor manager.
- Other: _____

A second reason we should be a servant is because Jesus is our model. This is the main point of the hymn we are studying. We are to become like Christ. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet before the Lord’s Supper. Then He told them, “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you” (John 13:14-15, NASB). Jesus was not as interested in clean feet as He was in the disciples assuming servant roles.

*2. Jesus is our model
for servanthood.*

 6. What is a second reason you should be a servant?

God does not need our service. He does not need anything—not our talent, our intelligence, our money, or our service. If God wants something, He is quite able to supply it. God demands service not from His need but from our need.

 7. Conclude today’s study by starting to learn your memory verse, Matthew 10:25. Agree with God that it is enough for you to be like your Master. Then pray and ask the Lord to work in a special way this week to develop in you an attitude of servanthood.



DAY 2

SERVING GOD AND OTHERS

Today's Bible Meditation

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

Name of Christ for Today

Our Passover
(1 Cor. 5:7)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Lord Jesus, You came as a servant of God in order to go to the cross in my behalf. You were my Passover as You gave Yourself on the cross as the Lamb of God. I cannot really understand that kind of love and service. Teach me to love in such a way that I am willing to give myself in service to God and others. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

In Christ's kingdom servanthood is the key to greatness, not position or influence as in the world's system. Salome requested that her sons, James and John, sit at Jesus' right and left hands in His kingdom. The disciples were furious, probably because they were not the first to make the request. Jesus explained Kingdom greatness.

2. Read below what Jesus said in Matthew 20:25-28. Circle the world's ways to greatness. Underline the Kingdom way to greatness.

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so 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 slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (NASB).

The concept that greatness comes through lowly servanthood is beyond our comprehension. This part of Jesus' teaching has not become a part of the attitude of most Christians. If men like Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David, Paul, and especially Jesus were servants, then God really means what He says. The last will be first, the least will be greatest, and the servant will be highly regarded.

On earth the elite are often determined by heredity. In the business world nobility comes from ambition, drive, energy, or ability. Jesus, however, said the truly great in heaven—the servants—will be those who are humble.

3. In God's kingdom which is the most important role for greatness? Check one.

- A high position of authority
- The influence of a charismatic personality
- Power backed by masses of supporters or weapons of destruction
- Servanthood

Surprisingly, this truth reverses many of the values we have learned. Yet it could hardly be any other way if heaven is to be heaven. Genuine oneness of spirit is feasible only if every member of the society is submissive to all others. We cannot imagine a world with no rivalry. In a world with no competition, joy will come from the privilege of serving others.

God Is Supreme

A society based on servanthood could have only one supreme authority. Jesus tells us that “no servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other” (Luke 16:13, NASB). We can please only one Master. That Master must be God. Paul knew this lesson. He wrote, “Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10, NASB). We must be servants of Christ. Our one passion must be to please Christ and do His will.

Serving One Another

We are to serve Christ supremely, but we are also to serve one another: “You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13, NASB). This seems contradictory: we are to serve only one Master, and yet we are also to serve one another. The solution is that we are not to serve one another as our master. Our mutual service is an act of love and submission. Our obedience is to Christ as our Master.

4. Draw a line matching the service on the left with the motive on the right.

Serve God •	• In order to become great
Serve one another •	• Because He is Supreme
	• Because of love

We serve God because He is supreme. He has the right and authority to demand our service. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe. We serve not from a selfish desire to become great but because God loves us and commands us to love one another. Love serves others by meeting needs.

5. You are almost halfway through this 12-week introduction to the mind of Christ. Today's lesson is a little shorter than most. Take time today to review.

- Review all your memory verses.
- Glance back over your Bondage to Freedom Lists to see the progress you are making.
- Review the Lifelong Helps on Christlike virtues. Which one is God working on in your life? _____

6. Conclude your study time in prayer. Let God guide your praying according to His desires for you. The Holy Spirit can help you pray when you do not know what to ask for (see Rom. 8:26-27). Ask Him to guide you now.

ROMANS 8:26-27

“THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPETH OUR INFIRMITIES: FOR WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AS WE OUGHT: BUT THE SPIRIT ITSELF MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED. AND HE THAT SEARCHETH THE HEARTS KNOWETH WHAT IS THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT, BECAUSE HE MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD.”



DAY 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVANT MIND, PART 1

Today's Bible Meditation
 "When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do"
 (Luke 17:10).

Name of Christ for Today
 An Offering and Sacrifice to God (Eph. 5:2)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Jesus, You paid it all. Your perfect offering and sacrifice of Your life make my spiritual life possible. Thank You. I love You. I exalt Your name as an Offering and Sacrifice to God. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

The New Testament describes what a servant is like. From it we can derive 14 characteristics that describe the servant mind. These characteristics also secure the work of God in our lives. They free God to do His work.

Most importantly, we become a servant not by what we do but by what we are. Each of these 14 characteristics applies to every servant of God.



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SERVANT MIND

1. Humble	5. Faithful	8. Not quarrelsome	11. Patient
2. Obedient	6. Watchful	9. Gentle	12. Meek
3. Willing	7. Courageous	10. Able to teach	13. Good
4. Loyal			14. Wise

2. Which of the following is first in importance for a servant of God? Check one.

His work: what the servant does
 His character: what the servant is

3. Turn to the back of your book and tear out The Mind of Christ Cards 18 and 19. Review these characteristics during the next few days.

God's first desire for your servanthood is your character. Jesus said, "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord" (Matt. 10:24-25). Your character is far more important than what you do. Doing grows from your being. Let's take a closer look at each of the 14 characteristics that should be true of your mind.

The Bible says Jesus was the Righteous Servant. Our final authority in all matters is the Lord Jesus Christ, not only in what He said but also in His example. These 14 characteristics can be applied to His life. What you are seeking is the mind of Christ as He exhibited it in His role as the Righteous Servant.

4. Who is your standard and model for these qualities of servanthood?

1. Humble

The fundamental servant characteristic is *humble* (see Acts 20:19). The servant must be humble before God in order to obey Him and must be humble before others to fit in with their works of service. Humble persons do not seek recognition for their work. They would rather advance the Kingdom than look good to others, and they see their work as part of a bigger picture. The bigger picture is more important to them than their own piece of it. Knowing service often depends on the complementary work of others, humble persons learn from others and seek to facilitate others' work.

5. Write one characteristic of the servant mind.

1. _____

3. Willing

5. Faithful

2. Obedient

4. Loyal

The quality of humility establishes the fact that we really are *members* of the body of Christ. The body has seldom functioned as a unit in the past because it has been divided by many would-be leaders. One day the church will become what it was intended to be: an association of the lowly. Unity of spirit is possible in a true association of the lowly; it is impossible among the proud.

Humility frees God to manifest Himself. God says, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isa. 57:15, NASB). Jesus demonstrated disdain for the proud but a special affection for the lowly and despised. God manifests His presence to the humble.

6. When you are humble, what does that free God to do?

Humility frees God to _____

Jesus was humble. Jesus' friends were lowly, common people. He did not normally cultivate close relationships with influential people, although Jesus did not turn them away. A first-century custom was to have a servant wash the feet of arriving guests. Jesus assumed that humble servant role before the Lord's Supper by washing the feet of His disciples. Jesus then commended this kind of humble service to them (see John 13:14-17). Jesus showed a humble spirit of servanthood.

2. Obedient

The second servant characteristic is *obedient* (see Eph. 6:5). Obedience is an attitude that draws no limits on what the Master can order. True obedience is instant, not delayed. At times we need to question the voices that seem to speak to us or give us commands. Once God's will is known, however, an obedient servant does not question the Master's will. We obey God because He is God, regardless of consequences. Obedience is the one quality that understands the meaning of God's authority. Obedience signifies that you truly are a servant: "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams" (1 Sam. 15:22, NASB). Obedience is always the best thing you can do.

Humble

Proper attitude toward the Master's work in others

- Fleshly attitude: "Who do you think you are?"
- When you are a humble member (see Acts 20:19), you free God to manifest Himself to you and through you (see Isa. 57:15).

Obedient

Understanding the authority of the Master over my time and life

- Fleshly attitude: "OK, in a minute." "I'll get around to it."
- When you are an obedient servant (see Eph. 6:5), you free God to do mighty acts (see Judg. 7).

 7. Write two characteristics of the servant mind.

1. _____

3. Willing

5. Faithful

2. _____

4. Loyal

Obedience frees God to act in mighty ways. Gideon promptly obeyed when God told him to reduce his army of 32,000 to 300 (see Judg. 7:2-7). The defeat of the Midianites was a great victory for the forces of God, but God was credited with the victory. The victory would not be memorable if Gideon had fought with his original army. God may require strange things, as He did of Joshua at the battle of Jericho (see Josh. 6:1-20). God's grand intentions can be realized only when we are obedient.

 8. When you are obedient, what does that free God to do?

Obedience frees God to _____

Jesus was obedient. Jesus' obedience was manifested throughout His life. After Jesus' appearance in the temple at age 12, Luke tells us that "He went down with them [Joseph and Mary], and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them" (Luke 2:51, NASB). Jesus said whatever the Father told Him to say (see John 12:50). He obeyed precisely. At the end of His life, Jesus declared, "That the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, even so I do" (John 14:31, NASB). He did not choose words carelessly. Jesus obeyed perfectly.

Willing

Identity with the Master's attitudes

- Fleshly attitude: "You have to look out for yourself."
- When you are a willing child (see Eph. 6:7), you free God to reward divinely (see Col. 3:22-24).

3. Willing

The third servant characteristic we consider is *willing* (see Eph. 6:7). Our service must be wholehearted. Our behavior often depends on our feelings rather than our will. Feelings are often confusing. Only the will can be single-minded. Only the will can override feelings. Continuing obedience cannot be a result of feelings but of the will. Even when feelings are out of control, you can give your will to God. You are to do the will of God with "singleness of your heart" (Eph. 6:5).

The will can exist in one of three ways: weak-willed, strong-willed (self-willed), or God-willed. To be God-willed, a person identifies his will with God's. Weak-willed persons too easily submit the will to others. Strong-willed persons seldom submit to anyone. Both weak-willed and strong-willed persons are independent of God. If your will insists on independence, your entire personality is independent. Only the will can truly identify with Jesus. That identification is what having the mind of Christ is all about. You are to do the will of God from your heart. Christ's will becomes your will.

 9. Which type of will is most characteristic of you at this point in your spiritual life? Check one. Most frequently I am—

- weak-willed;
- strong-willed (self-willed);
- God-willed.

 10. Write three characteristics of the servant mind.

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. Faithful
2. _____ 4. Loyal

Your willingness frees God to reward divinely. You are to obey with all your heart, "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance" (Col. 3:24, NASB). Identifying your will with that of God establishes a spiritual likeness.

 11. When you are willing, what does that free God to do?

Willingness frees God to _____

Jesus was willing. Christ's identification of His will with that of the Father is one of the striking aspects of His life. We have already seen that the dominating desire of Jesus' life was to do the will of His Father. His passion was the Father's will. The Father's will was Jesus' will. In the greatest trial of His life, Jesus remained consistent in seeking the Father's will: "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done" (Matt. 26:42, NASB). The will of the Master must be the will of the servant, or the work will not get done.

 12. Pray and indicate to the Lord your willingness to obey and follow Him. Ask God to remove any pride that gets in the way of your faithful service to Him and to others.



DAY 4 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVANT MIND, PART 2

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

Today's Bible Meditation
"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Sam. 15:22).

 2. As a review, write three characteristics of the servant mind.

1. H _____ 3. W _____ 5. Faithful

2. O _____ 4. Loyal

Name of Christ for Today
A Teacher Come from God (John 3:2)

4. Loyal

The next servant characteristic is *loyal* (see Luke 16:13). Loyalty means you have an undivided heart. Only a loyal servant is truly dependable. Loyalty is indispensable for a servant. Obedience may require sacrifice and even death. Only loyalty remains steadfast, regardless of cost. Loyalty is exclusive. It says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). God demands loyalty. God is jealous (see Ex. 20:5),

LUKE 16:13

"NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ELSE HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND WEALTH" (NASB).

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Teacher, You know what will allow me to experience life in its fullest dimensions. You came to give me that abundant life. Teach me Your servant ways, and I will follow them. Amen.

Loyal

Unswerving devotion to the Master

- Fleshly attitude: “You scratch my back; I’ll scratch yours.”
- When you are a loyal citizen (see Luke 16:13), you free God to promote you (see Gen. 39–41).

for He is absolute. Lordship, by definition, cannot be partial. You cannot say no and call Him Lord.

Loyalty is an indispensable requirement for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven. We are “fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household” (Eph. 2:19, NASB). Loyalty says, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts” (1 Kings 19:10,14, NASB). Only loyalty praises the Father for whatever might be “well-pleasing in [His] sight” (Matt. 11:26, NASB).

3. What is a fourth characteristic of the servant mind?

1. Humble 3. Willing

5. Faithful

2. Obedient 4. _____

Loyalty frees God to promote you within Kingdom work. In Genesis 37–41 Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, Potiphar’s wife, and the cupbearer, yet he remained faithful to his brothers, to Potiphar, and to God. Because he was loyal to God, God was free to promote Joseph. Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt.

4. When you are loyal, what does that free God to do?

Loyalty frees God to _____

Jesus was loyal. His loyalty to the Father is seen in the dedication of His life to the Father’s will. Jesus was loyal to His disciples. In His Great High Priestly prayer Jesus said to the Father, “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name” (John 17:12). Jesus was loyal to death on the cross.

Faithful

Confidence that anticipates the Master will continue His plan

- Fleshly attitude: “I’m tired of this.”
- When you are faithful (see 1 Cor. 4:2), you free God to expand your ministry (see Matt. 25:21).

5. Faithful

The fifth servant characteristic is *faithful* (see 1 Cor. 4:1-2). Through Moses God commanded His people to be faithful: “Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave” (Deut. 10:20). Faithfulness reflects the fidelity of a God who says, “I will never break my covenant with you” (Judg. 2:1). Faithfulness is reflected in statements like “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29, NASB). Jesus praised the faithful servants in His parables.

Jesus described us as branches abiding in Him, the True Vine (see John 15:1-7). In faithfulness you establish your “branchhood.” Only an abiding branch produces fruit. Obedience cannot be a one-time act. Obedience must be a continuing process. Faithfulness is also inclusive; it applies to both small and great matters (see Luke 16:10).

5. Write five characteristics of the servant mind.

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Faithfulness frees God to expand your ministry. The five-talent man and the two-talent man were “faithful with a few things,” so the master put them “in charge of many things” (Matt. 25:21,23, NASB). God rewards trustworthiness with greater trust.

 6. When you are faithful, what does that free God to do?

Faithfulness frees God to _____

Jesus was faithful. He was faithful to the Father, even to death. Jesus was also faithful to His disciples: “Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end” (John 13:1, NASB). Jesus continues to be faithful as our High Priest. He is “with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20, NASB). Even Jesus’ name is “Faithful and True” (Rev. 19:11).

6. Watchful

The sixth servant characteristic is *watchful* (see Luke 12:35-48). The emphasis is on both alertness and being prepared for the master’s return. Watchfulness indicates an attitude toward the master. *Watchful* means you want to know what God says or what He wants you to do. In Jesus’ parables good servants spent much time waiting. They were expected to be alert at all times. Such watchfulness made them good servants rather than wicked servants.

The psalmist wrote, “As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress; so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He shall be gracious to us” (Ps. 123:2). Paul wrote Titus, “Remind them to be ... ready for every good deed” (Titus 3:1, NASB). The quality of watchfulness proves whether you are God’s watchman. Paul wrote the Thessalonians, “You are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober” (1 Thess. 5:5-6, NASB).

 7. Write one characteristic of the servant mind.

6. _____

8. Not quarrelsome

7. Courageous

9. Gentle

Watchfulness frees the Lord to speak. Habakkuk demonstrated the watchman spirit: “I will stand on my guard post. ... I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me” (Hab. 2:1, NASB). God is not likely to speak to servants who are not watchful. Only those alert for action will hear the voice of the Lord.

 8. When you are watchful, what does that free God to do?

Watchfulness frees God to _____

Jesus was watchful. His eye was always on the Father to know the Father’s direction: “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner” (John 5:19, NASB). “I can do nothing on My own initiative.

Watchful

Attentiveness to the Master’s voice

- Fleshly attitude: “I wish I had not said that.”
- When you are a watchful watchman (see Luke 12:35-48), you free God to speak (see Hab. 2:1).

As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 5:30, NASB). Christ always depended on direction from the Father. Jesus spent the night in prayer before He chose His disciples (see Luke 6:12). A watchful servant remains alert to the Master.

Courageous

Conviction about the Master's priorities

- Fleshly attitude: "I'm not taking any chances."
 - When you are a courageous soldier (see Luke 1:74-75), you free God to protect you (see Dan. 6:23).

7. Courageous

Our next servant characteristic is *courageous*. Zechariah's song proclaimed that the "horn of salvation" (the Messiah) would "grant us that we ... might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days" (Luke 1:74-75, NASB). David was called a servant, and "David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine'" (1 Sam. 17:32, NASB). Daniel, a servant of God, defied the king's edict in order to pray before God (see Dan. 6:10). Just before his shipwreck Paul told the crew, "This very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid. ...' Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God" (Acts 27:23-25, NASB). Courage is a servant quality that demonstrates conviction.

9. Write two characteristics of the servant mind.

6. _____ 8. Not quarrelsome

7. _____ 9. Gentle

Courage proves that you are one of God's soldiers. Courage frees God to protect you. As David faced Goliath, he claimed, "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Sam. 17:47). No wound was found on Daniel "because he had trusted in his God" (Dan. 6:23, NASB). Paul's faith in God was justified as the entire crew safely made it to shore (Acts 28:1).

10. When you are courageous, what does that free God to do?

Courage frees God to _____

Jesus was courageous. He endured persecution, suffering, and death. Having predicted His own death, Jesus knew what that fateful last trip to Jerusalem would produce. Jesus headed toward His death with the disciples like frightened chicks behind Him: "They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful" (Mark 10:32, NASB). Jesus was courageous.

8. Not Quarrelsome

Five servant characteristics are found in 2 Timothy 2:24: "The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves." The first of these is a negative: the servant of the Lord must not strive. He must not be quarrelsome. Servants are often assigned to work together, especially in the kingdom of God. Every true calling from God complements and enhances the genuine callings of others. Can you imagine what a church would be like if no one quarreled?

Not Quarrelsome

Peace that awaits the Master's work in others

- Fleshly attitude: "Why do they always pick on me?"
 - When you are not quarrelsome but a peacemaker (see 2 Tim. 2:24), you free God to focus on the main thing (see Luke 10:41-42)

 11. Write three characteristics of the servant mind.

6. _____ 8. _____

7. _____ 9. Gentle

If you possess this quality not to be quarrelsome, you are a peacemaker. This frees the Lord to focus on the main thing. Martha was quarrelsome, but when Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to His word, Jesus said, "One thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

 12. When you are not quarrelsome, what does that free God to do?

Not being quarrelsome frees God to _____

Jesus was not quarrelsome. He did not start arguments, although He was swift to reply when challenged by either secret hypocrisy or open confrontation. When asked by a man in the crowd, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me," Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbiter over you?" Then He warned, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions" (Luke 12:13-15, NASB).

 13. Just as Mary sat at Jesus' feet to learn the more needful things, spend time now and throughout the day with Jesus in prayer. Watch. Wait. Listen. Prepare to obey.

DAY 5
CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVANT MIND, PART 3

 1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

 2. As a review, write three characteristics of the servant mind.

6. W _____ 8. N _____

7. C _____ 9. Gentle

9. Gentle

The next characteristic, *gentle*, suggests congenial and mild. It has a soothing quality. To be a peacemaker, we must be soothing. Some of our servant tasks require gentleness.



Today's Bible Meditation

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner" (John 5:19, NASB).

Name of Christ for Today
The Only Wise God
(1 Tim. 1:17)

**Prayer to Begin
the Lesson**

*Only Wise God, I don't
fully understand why
servanthood is the way
to greatness in Your
kingdom. But You are
sovereign. Give me the
wisdom I lack. Help me
be as wise as a serpent and
as harmless as a dove. Amen.*

Gentle

Respect that enhances
the work of others
for the Master

- Fleshly attitude: "I've had it up to here!"
- When you are a lover of gentleness (see 2 Tim. 2:24), you free God to strengthen you (see Luke 22:32).

Able to Teach
Understanding of
the Master's work

- Fleshly attitude: "I don't have time for Bible study."
- When you are able to teach (see 2 Tim. 2:24), you free God to establish divine authority (see Matt. 7:28-29).

 3. Write the ninth characteristic of the servant mind.

6. Watchful

8. Not quarrelsome

7. Courageous

9. _____

Just as courage frees God to protect you, gentleness frees God to strengthen you. Jesus was gentle with Peter when He predicted Peter's fall. Jesus told him, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:31-32, NASB). Perhaps that prayer was responsible for Peter's courageous stand before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:8-12. Gentleness is a perversion if it does not come from strength. But strength is also a perversion if it is not coupled with gentleness.

 4. When you are gentle, what does that free God to do?

Gentleness frees God to _____

Jesus was gentle. He was gentle and forbearing. One of the most tender pictures we have of Jesus is His declaration "I am the door of the sheep. ... If anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:7-9, NASB). His gentleness grew from great strength.

10. Able to Teach

Paul's next servant characteristic in 2 Timothy 2:24 is *able to teach*. This seems to be an extraordinary requirement, since teaching is listed as a spiritual gift in Romans 12:6-7. The ability to teach is also required of a pastor or bishop (see 1 Tim. 3:2). However, the ability to communicate God's message is expected of all servants of the Lord. A person may not be a great speaker but can nevertheless teach. The key to this mystery is found in the verse following our servant verse: "... with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition" (2 Tim. 2:25, NASB).

 5. Write one characteristic of the servant mind.

10. _____

12. Meek

14. Wise

11. Patient

13. Good

Christians are light for this world because the Light of the World dwells in us (see Matt. 5:14). Being able to teach frees God to establish divine authority. Peter told us, "... always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15, NASB).

 6. When you are able to teach, what does that free God to do?

Being able to teach frees God to _____

Jesus was able to teach under divine authority. Early in His ministry "He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority" (Luke 4:31-32, NASB). Later, as He ended the Sermon on the Mount, "the multitudes were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes" (Matt. 7:28-29, NASB). Occasionally, Jesus' skillful and wise teaching silenced those who opposed Him.

11. Patient

The next servant characteristic is *patient*. In the Kingdom waiting is not a waste of time. We must wait on the Lord (see Ps. 130:5-6), and we must also learn to be patient with others. Being patient goes hand in hand with being watchful. You will not continue to be watchful if you are not also patient.

7. Write two characteristics of the servant mind.

10. _____

12. Meek

14. Wise

11. _____

13. Good

Patient

Forbearance that values the Master's purposes for others

- Fleshly attitude: "Enough is enough!"
- When you are a patient ruler (see 2 Tim. 2:24), you free God to answer prayer (see John 14:8-14).

In patience you demonstrate your nobility: "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city" (Prov. 16:32). Patience frees the Lord to answer prayer in His way and in His time. God is never in a rush, even though we usually are. Waiting on God allows Him to provide the best answer. We are to become like God, who is patient with us.

8. When you are patient, what does that free God to do?

Patience frees God to _____

Jesus was patient. Jesus' patience with His disciples is notable. They were persistently slow to understand. Again and again He scolded the disciples for their lack of faith (see Matt. 8:26; 14:31). Although Jesus repeatedly taught on humility, the night before He died, "there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest" (Luke 22:24). Jesus patiently explained one last time the importance of humility and servanthood (see Luke 22:24-27).

12. Meek

The last servant characteristic in 2 Timothy 2:23-25 is *meek*. Only two persons in the Bible are called meek. Numbers 12:3 tells us, "The man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." In Matthew 11:29 Jesus used the word to describe Himself. The context in each case indicates lowliness. The only two men described as meek, however, are the two strongest personalities in the Bible. Think of Moses repeatedly confronting Pharaoh or of Jesus reproving the Pharisees in Matthew 23:13-36. No weakness is found in either of these two great examples! We can be lowly yet strong. Only strength voluntarily submits. Involuntary submission has nothing to do with meekness.

Meek

Disciplined sensitivity to the Master

- Fleshly attitude: "I'll show them!"
- When you are meek like sheep (see 2 Tim. 2:24), you free God to guide you (see Ps. 25:9).

 9. Write three characteristics of the servant mind.

10. _____ 12. _____ 14. Wise

11. _____ 13. Good

Meekness frees the Lord to guide you: "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Ps. 25:9).

 10. When you are meek, what does that free God to do?

Meekness frees God to _____

Jesus was meek. We have already described His meekness. Jesus could have come as a king, as a high priest, or in another exalted position. Instead, He came as a lowly carpenter but with great spiritual strength.

Good

Applied trust in the Master's excellence

- Fleshly attitude: "It was just a little mistake."
- When you are a good servant (see Matt. 25:21), you free God to produce fruit (see Matt. 7:17).

13. Good

The parable of the talents gives us another characteristic: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21). Note how Jesus uses the word *good* in the parable. Once again, it implies that the servant had accomplished Kingdom work. A good servant has practical worth.

 11. Write four characteristics of the servant mind.

10. _____ 12. _____ 14. Wise

11. _____ 13. _____

Goodness frees the Lord to produce fruit in you. It proves that you really are the servant you were redeemed to be: "You will know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:20, NASB). A good servant produces fruit.

 12. When you are good, what does that free God to do?

It frees God to _____

Jesus was good. His goodness is reflected in two thousand years of Christian history. He claimed, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). We could apply this characteristic to all His roles: He is the Good Teacher, the Good Savior, the Good Brother, the Good Bridegroom, the Good Priest, and all the others. In all Jesus is, He functions to accomplish the Father's Kingdom purposes. Jesus is good.

14. Wise

The last servant characteristic comes from the parable of the unjust steward in Luke 16:1-13. In the King James Version the servant was *wise*, but perhaps the New American Standard Version comes closer to Jesus' idea: the servant must be shrewd!

This seems to be a strange quality to require of us, especially since the manager in the story was devious.

Jesus is not commanding deceitful behavior. He sent the 70 out as "lambs in the midst of wolves" (Luke 10:3, NASB). Yet Jesus cautioned, "The sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light" (Luke 16:8, NASB). In Jesus' mind no conflict exists. We can be childlike and yet resourceful. The servant must use good judgment, keen discernment, and at times intelligent discrimination. Certainly Jesus was innocent and keenly perceptive. He could not be caught off guard. This same word, *wise*, is used in Matthew 7:24 of the wise man who built his house on a rock.

Wise

Dependence on the Master's method

- Fleshly attitude: "I don't know what to do."
- When you are a wise disciple (see Luke 16:1-13), you free God to invest you with authority (see Matt. 24:45).

 13. Write five characteristics of the servant mind.

10. _____ 12. _____ 14. _____

11. _____ 13. _____

Wisdom frees God to invest you with authority. Wisdom establishes that you are a disciple, learning from the Master and becoming like Him. Jesus asked, "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?" (Matt. 24:45, NASB). The authority of the wise will be greatly increased.

Wisdom establishes that you are a disciple, learning from the Master and becoming like Him.

 14. When you are wise, what does that free God to do?

Wisdom frees God to _____

Jesus was wise. When we see shrewdness in Jesus' life, we expect it to accomplish desirable and eternal goals. Most of Jesus' great works were accomplished in Galilee. Little is recorded of miracles in Judea in comparison to the Galilean and Perea ministries. This fact is an indication of wisdom. Jesus had opposition from the beginning. Jesus wisely chose to work where the religious officials did not live. Wisdom placed His work among the receptive, the poor, and the lowly. Even His name is "wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24).

 15. Conclude this week's study by praying this prayer.

Heavenly Father, thank You that these qualities are attainable. They are within my grasp. Being a servant goes against the grain of everything I have been taught in my culture. I have been taught to hitch my wagon to a star and to look out for number one in all I do. You teach me that I am at my greatest when I stoop to serve. With my background I find it hard to believe that.

Yet I believe You. You are always right, no matter how strange Your Word may seem by worldly standards. Lord, I am conscious of the great distance between what I am and what the Lord Jesus lived out on earth. Make me like Him, no matter what I have to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.