

THE HEART OF A SERVANT

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant ~ Mark 10:43 (Msg)

How does the world define greatness? The four P's – power, possessions, prestige and position. We live in a self-serving culture, a me-first mentality.

Jesus, measured greatness totally different, in terms of **service** and not status.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant ~Phil. 2:3-6

Let's examine our hearts...are you a servant?

1. Do you make yourself available to serve? – much like a soldier, a servant must always be standing by for duty. We must be willing for our “schedules” to be interrupted. Real servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient. Are you available to God anytime? Can He mess up your plans without you becoming resentful?
2. Do you pay attention to needs? Are you on the lookout for ways to help others? *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10* We miss opportunities to serve because we lack sensitivity and spontaneity. We have to be willing to be interrupted.
3. Do you do the best with what you have? Don't make excuses, procrastinate, or wait for when the time is right. One reason you may not serve is because you fear you are not good enough.
4. Do you do every task with equal dedication? The size of the task is irrelevant. God says to do things with all of our hearts. (Col. 3:23). Look to Jesus as the example, he specialized in menial tasks: washing feet, fixing breakfast, serving lepers – nothing was beneath Him, He came to serve. Small tasks often show a big heart. Your servant's heart is revealed in little

acts that others don't think of doing. Or – Great opportunities often disguise themselves in small tasks.

5. Are you faithful to the ministry God has called you to serve? Are you fulfilling your responsibilities? Are you keeping your promises? Are you a follow through kind of guy or gal? Are you hanging in there when it is tough? Are you trustworthy and dependable? Can you be counted on by others?
6. Do you maintain a low profile? Servants don't promote or call attention to themselves. Instead of acting to impress we are to clothe ourselves in humility. 1 Peter 5:5. Do you serve for the approval and applause of others or do you live for an audience of One?

You serve God by serving others. *If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.* ~Matthew 10:42

As you look at these six characteristics of a true servant which offers you the greatest challenge?

**adapted from *The Purpose Driven Life* "How Real Servant's Act"