



Week/Sermon # 5

Title: How Do I Extend Humble Service in a Selfish World?

Key Texts: John 13:1-17, Mark 10:45, and Matthew 5:14-16

Overview: Jesus left the glory of heaven and came to serve us with His own life. His disciples joyfully serve their Savior, His church, and the world He loves. When we care like Jesus, the world sees a vision of the servant Savior and is willing to hear our stories of who Jesus is and how He loves.

Sermon Outline:

Sermon Introduction Idea- Consider beginning the message by thoughtfully and gratefully talking about how every healthy church is built on the faithful and humble service of so many people. Talk about those who are serving children in Sunday School/Children's Worship that very morning. Thank God for the people caring for little ones in the church nursery. Point out that God uses faithful and humble servants in the church who greet people as they come in, usher people to their seats, play instruments, sing in choirs, lead adult classes, host small groups, serve in church and local food pantries, and so many other ways.

- **Video or Live Testimonies...** You might want to have five or six people give a live testimony of how serving in the church or your community brings joy to their life and shines the light of Jesus. This could fit anywhere in your service or sermon. Have their testimonies be brief and clear. Here is an example... "Hi, I'm Jane Brown and I serve in the church nursery. I find incredible joy caring for the little ones so their parents can worship Jesus and know their child is in a safe and loving environment. I also believe this service advances the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus because when a non-believing visitor comes to our church, they can really focus on the worship experience and sermon because we are caring for their child."

Movement 1- Learning from Jesus... The Staggering Reality of God's Servant Heart and Actions



- **Image:** If you are going to use the seven icons for the seven markers of spiritual growth, show the image for "Humble Service" and let people know that this picture will show up in sermons, on your website, in youth and children's materials, and other times when you are focusing on the marker of Humble Service. Consider having the Icon on the

sermon title if you project notes or on the cover of your bulletin if you have one. You might want to have the icon in one of the corners of every slide you project in this sermon. ([Here is the link to the Humble Service badge](#))

- Read: John 1:14

...the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (NIV).

- Teach about the incarnation of Jesus and how His coming into our world to live, suffer, die and give His life for our sins was the ultimate act of service in the history of the world.

- Read: John 13:1-4

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him (NIV).

- Teach about the place and role of foot washing in the first century. Draw the beautiful and staggering contrast between who Jesus was (the Divine One, the Creator, the Lord of glory...) and who the disciples were. God was kneeling at the feet of common people and serving with deep humility.
- **Visual-** You might want to have a basin, a pitcher filled with water, and a towel. You can act out this passage and show how foot washing can only be done when we kneel down.
- **Illustration-** You can do a foot washing if you feel it would communicate with your congregation. If you do this, have someone who is ready to come forward, sit in a chair, and allow you (as the pastor) to wash their feet.

- The Mission of Jesus (Mark 10:45)

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (NIV).

- This was Jesus' mission statement. Talk about how Jesus could have demanded that we bow down and serve Him, but He came to serve us in every way, even to the point of washing feet and dying on the cross.

- Jesus came to...(Focus on some of the things Jesus came to do as the ultimate servant and our perfect example of humble service.)
 - Heal the broken
 - Free those in bondage
 - Serve the unworthy
 - Die to give us life

Note- *If you project this list, you might want to have them come in one at a time.*
- The resurrected Jesus and Lord of glory is still serving!
 - Teach about how the resurrected Jesus served the disciples a simple meal along the Sea of Galilee. Even rising from the dead did not change the commitment of Jesus to serve (John 21:9-12).
 - Reflect on the powerful reality that the risen and ascended Christ still intercedes for His children. Jesus serves us today by praying for us while He is in heaven (Romans 8:34).
 - **Prayer-** You might want to pause for a moment and lift up a prayer of thanks to God for the awe-inspiring reality that Jesus is still serving His people!

Movement 2- The Journey of Organic Discipleship... To Grow as a Disciple is to Increase Each Day in Service!

- Jesus was crystal clear. He has served us. Now we are to serve others.
- **Read:** John 13:12-17

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them (NIV).

- Jesus served His disciples so that they would understand their calling. To be like Jesus, to grow as a disciple, is to increase in humble service with each passing month and year of our life.
- We find deep and lasting joy and blessing when we learn to serve like Jesus. We are His servants and when we embrace this aspect of our calling and identity, we learn what life is meant to be.

- What does a servant's life look like? (There are notes in the book, *Organic Disciples* that will help you illustrate these ideas from the Bible and from life.)
 - It is about where we sit.
 - It is about noticing real needs.
 - It is about cross-carrying.
 - It happens in our home.
 - It is a neighbor thing.
 - It is connected to your church family.

Note- *If you project this list, you might want to have them come in one at a time.*
- **Questions for reflection.** You might want to ask these slowly, leaving time for reflection. You might want to project them as you ask them.
 - Who has been an example of humble service in your life and how have you seen Jesus through the life of this person?
 - Who has God placed in your life that needs humble service from you?
 - How does serving others help you grow in faith?
 - How does serving non-believers reveal the presence, power, and love of Jesus?

Movement 3- How Humble Service Leads Us to the World...How Does Humble Service Open the Doors of Heaven?

- Read: Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (NIV).
- Humble service reveals the heart and presence of Jesus
 - Reflect on ways that our humble service in the world can shine the light and show the heart of Jesus to spiritually resistant or curious people.
 - **Illustration-** Share a story about a person in your congregation who came to faith through the witness of your church or a person in your church who served with humble joy over time.
 - **Video-** It would be powerful if you could capture this person's story in a short video testimony and show it.
- Humble service causes people to ask, "Why?"

- o Talk about how our acts of service, offered with humble and loving hearts, can cause non-believers to ask us why we serve our community, the church, and even people who have no interest in the message of Jesus. When they ask why, we can tell them about the One who served us through His incarnation, life, and death on a cross.
- o **Illustration:** There is a wonderful film called: *Sabina (Tortured for Christ, The Nazi Years)* created by the ministry, Voice of the Martyrs. If you watch this film, you will find some great clips where people who are persecuting Christians are led to ask why the followers of Jesus keep serving and loving...even when persecuted. If you can show a clip of one of these scenes, it could be very powerful.
- Humble service turns our home into a lighthouse
 - o Give some simple examples of ways a Christian can serve the people in their home, neighborhood, and immediate community. Describe how these consistent acts of service can shine the light of Jesus and open the door for spiritual conversations.
- Humble service turns our work place (or school) into a mission trip
 - o Many of the adults in your church are in the workplace five days a week. Many of your young people are in school four or five days a week. Cast a vision for them to see their work or school setting as a mission field. Encourage them to pray for the people they meet there, serve them often, love them like Jesus does, and seek opportunities to share the love and story of Jesus.
 - o Encourage them to pray at the start of each school or work day for eyes to see needs and hands that are ready and quick to serve.
 - o Give a few examples of what this kind of service could look like and how God might open doors to share His love and grace through humble service.
- Humble service adds purpose to our play
 - o Encourage the believers in your church to think of their social settings, times of play, and the relaxing moments of life as an opportunity to notice needs and naturally serve others.
 - o **Examples-** Give a number of simple examples from your setting. Where I live in Monterey, I might encourage golfers to rake a sand trap for someone else or offer to buy lunch after a round of golf. I might encourage people who are members of a health club to find ways to serve those who work there (and not just let them serve the members). Use illustrations that connect in your setting.
- Humble service turns the church into a healing center
 - o Share about various ways people in your church could help serve in ministries you offer to those who are in need in your community. It could be a food pantry, visits to

a local retirement center, helping at an animal shelter, a lay-counseling ministry, or one of many other options.

- o **Testimonies-** You could have one or two people share (live or on video) about a ministry of your church that serves people in need and shines the light of Jesus.
- o You might want to highlight service opportunities in your church (that connect with your community) in your bulletin, on your website, or with ministry representatives ready to talk with people after the service.
- Living like Jesus brings Him to a world that wonders
 - o Finish by reflecting on how humble service in our homes, social settings, church, work places, schools, and neighborhoods shows the heart and presence of Jesus. Encourage people to look for ways to serve and respond to the nudges of the Holy Spirit.

The Great Reversal... How Does Organic Outreach Grow Our Heart to Serve?

- You might want to take a few minutes and reflect on how engagement in sharing our faith increases our desire to serve others. As we connect with people, seek to meet their needs in the name of Jesus, and love people who are still far from the Savior, they become friends. We care about them. And, when we care, service comes naturally. Humble service opens the doors for evangelism. And, doing the work of outreach leads us to humbly serve people we are learning to love in the name of Jesus. What a beautiful cycle!
- **Closing Prayer:** Close your message in prayer asking God to help each person in your church grow as a servant who humbly cares for others in the name of Jesus. And, ask that each act of service will open the door to tell others about Jesus, the One who has served them with His own life.