

Make Me a Servant

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#2176 The Faith We Sing

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Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
make me a servant, make me a servant,  
make me servant today.

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Philippians 2:5-8 *“Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, He stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, He lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.”* The Message<sup>1</sup>

John 13:12-17 *“After He had finished washing their feet, He took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table. Then He said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master,’ and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. I’m only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn’t give orders to the employer. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.”* The Message<sup>1</sup>

Romans 12:11-13a *“Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. When God’s children are in need, you be the one to help them out.”* The Living Bible<sup>2</sup>

The word “servant” often carries negative connotations: drudge, hireling, minion, menial. But it can also mean: helper or friend. Looking at Jesus’ example of servanthood, do you see a minion or a helper? A drudge or a friend? What makes you feel that way?

Jesus asks us to follow His example; to not think of ourselves as better than others; to help in any way we can; to “serve the Lord enthusiastically”. How does this make you feel? Why do you feel this way? Can you follow Jesus’ example? Can you see your efforts as a gift to God as well as to your fellow humans? Does

this change your perception of serving? In what way? How does this make feel?

Does all this feel hard? Ask God to strengthen you.

Does it feel overwhelming? Ask Jesus to help you see how to manage your efforts.

Unsure how to go about it? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to the place you are needed most and the ways you can help.

“So take a new grip with your tired hands,  
stand firm on your shaky legs,  
and mark out a straight, smooth path for your feet  
so that those who follow you, though weak and lame,  
will not fall and hurt themselves but become strong.”  
Hebrews 12:12-13 The Living Bible

<sup>1</sup>The Message Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.

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