



Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Mark 10:43

"It is possible to serve in church for a lifetime without ever being a servant. You must have a servant's heart. "

As you are reading this article we will be on our High School Mission Trip to LA. We will be working with homeless people, people living in poverty and in gang prevention programs in downtown Hollywood. There won't be the glitz and glamor that we associate with Hollywood but rather the gritty every day hardships that face so many living in this area. We will be living in a Mission House in the midst of all the craziness that is Hollywood.

You know, the world defines greatness in terms of power, possessions, prestige, and position. If you can demand service from others, you've arrived. In our *me-first* culture, acting like a servant is not a popular concept. We find however, that Jesus, measured greatness in terms of service, not status. God determines your greatness by how many people you serve, not how many people serve you.

Now I know this is totally opposite to the world's idea of greatness and for that reason we have a hard time understanding it, much less practicing it. Even the disciples argued

about who deserved the most prominent position, and 2,000 years later, people still jockey for position and prominence.

Thousands of books have been written on leadership, but few on servanthood.

Everyone wants to lead; no one wants to be a servant. We would rather be generals than privates. Even Christians want to be "servant-leaders," not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant. That's what he called himself.

If you want to be serving God, having the heart of a servant is of vital importance. Remember, God created and made you for service, not for self-centeredness. Without a servant's heart, you will be tempted to misuse the gifts and talents God gave you for personal gain. Perhaps you will also be tempted to use it as an excuse to exempt yourself from meeting other people's needs. God often tests our hearts by asking us to serve in ways we're not comfortable with or feel we have the gifts to do it. If you see a man fall into a ditch, God expects you to help him out, not say, "I don't have the gift of mercy or service."

While we may not be gifted for a particular task, we may be called to do it if no one who is gifted at it is around. God needs us to make ourselves available for service wherever we're needed. It is with this type of servant's heart that we head out on our "Mission Adventure." We are not special, we are just saying "Here I Am." Anyone can be a servant. All it requires is for us to take the focus of self and answer God's call.

I believe that it is possible to be in church for a lifetime without ever being a servant because the mindset has been that someone else will do it. You must have a servant's heart. We just develop a heart that breaks for those in need or who do not know the love and saving grace of Jesus. It's what we are called to do!

How can you know if you have the heart of a servant?

Jesus said, "You can tell what they are by what they do" Matthew 7:16.

