



Lesson One

“Servant Leaders – After God’s Own Heart”

Objective: *To provide Scriptural understanding and motivation for servant hearted leadership. The believers will be encouraged to move into action with this series of lessons to serve God through serving others.*

1 Sam 13:14 NKJV *The Lord has sought for Himself a man **after His own heart**, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over his people...*

After: *Going after aggressively – to resemble – to be like - in accordance with*

I. What is Servant Leadership?

Serving others is a part of the purpose of every believer in Christ. At Xceleration Church, it is included as one of our five main purposes.

We love God through worship
We love others through fellowship
We purpose to become Christ-like in maturity
We serve others through ministry
We rescue lives through our mission to share Him

The concept of servant leadership begins by being a servant first. A servant leader must learn to serve before taking on a leadership position.

a. Servant leaders are motivated by _____ and _____.

Gal 5:13 NKJV *through love serve one another.*

Phil 2:3-4 NKJV *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

The Greek word translated here as “serve” is *douleuo* which means “to be a slave to.” So to serve one another in love is *to be a slave to one another in love, to yield to, to obey, to do someone’s bidding, and to do so in love.*

That’s a pretty tall order! Most people don’t like to be thought of as servants, let alone slaves. We may feel like we don’t mind serving some people up to a certain point – our employers, for example – but it’s a little hard for us to think of anyone being our master,

especially a peer or someone we consider lower than ourselves. It's a little easier to think about serving God, because He is so obviously superior in every way. This is exactly the way God asks us to serve others... as if we are serving Him.

Col 3:23 NKJV *And whatever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord** and not to men 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; **for you serve the Lord Christ.***

Rom 12:10 NKJV ***Be kindly affectionate to one another** with brotherly love, in honor giving **preference to one another**; 11 **not lagging in diligence**, fervent in spirit, **servicing the Lord...***

If we decide to serve someone a meal, for example, we're serving, but it's our own idea. The idea of "**through love serve another**" is more like doing the bidding of another. When it comes to that, then we have to have a bit **more grace and humility and yieldedness**.

Whether we are doing the serving or others are serving us through Christ, it's all going to be loving and we're all going to benefit. Serving in the kingdom of God is a two-way street.

b. _____ is the perfect example of servant leadership. Phil 2:7-8

1 Peter 2:21 NIV *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, that you should follow in his steps.*

He left us an example because part of His mission was to empower us to carry on where He left off. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we humble ourselves and serve others like He served us.

John 20:21-22 NKJV *So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

His example:

c. Jesus _____ Himself becoming a servant of all.

Mark 10:45 NKJV *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

d. Jesus teaches us that being a servant makes you _____ in the Kingdom of heaven. John 13:3-5 & 12-17

Matt 23:11-12 NKJV *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 22:24-27 MSG Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. 25 But Jesus intervened: "Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. 26 It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant. 27 "Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You'd rather eat and be served, right? **But I've taken my place among you as the one who serves.** 28 And you've stuck with me through thick and thin. 29 Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me 30 so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and **be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God's people.**

II. Finding Fulfillment and Purpose through Serving Kingdom Responsibilities

Serving and leading is not just for pastors, missionaries and teachers, but all of us have a share of the responsibility and privilege to advance the Kingdom of God. God wants you to serve others. It's one of the tools He uses to mature us. As we mature through serving, we find a great sense of fulfillment because serving is part of our purpose in life.

a. We have been _____ by God for Kingdom purpose. John 15:16-17

Eph 2:10 AMP For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works (**Good News and good works**) which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Part of the good life that He prearranged for us is the fulfillment and Godly reward that comes with serving others. There is a joy you experience in serving that you just cannot find in anything else. It's our purpose!

Job 36:11 AMP & NKJV If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in (pleasure) pleasantness **and joy.**

III. Unlocking Your Potential for Greatness

a. Leaders are not born, they are _____. Matthew 4:18-20

Some people seem to be natural born leaders with an abundance of leadership gifts and qualities. But it is also true that some of the best leaders in the Kingdom of God are those whom the world would probably disregard as even qualifying for leadership. Jesus sought out and trained regular people with regular jobs to lead the church. Some

were fishermen and one was a tax collector (IRS-yuk!). One was a political zealot and one was a double minded man who could never really make up his mind on anything! None of them were theologians.

After following Jesus for three years and watching His servant leadership style, the transformation was astounding. After being filled with the Holy Spirit and beginning to serve and lead the church, people recognized them as companions of Jesus. .

Acts 4:13 AMP *Now when they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools [common men with no educational advantages], they marveled; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

MSG *They couldn't take their eyes off them — Peter and John standing there so confident, so sure of themselves! Their fascination deepened when they realized these two were laymen with no training in Scripture or formal education. They recognized them as companions of Jesus*

1 Cor 1:26-29 MSG *Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. 27 Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, 28 chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"?*

He is the Potter and we are the clay. We have to allow Him to have His way with our lives. If we trust Him and submit to Him and humble ourselves for servant leadership, He can literally mold us into the leaders and giant killers of our generation! **Jeremiah 18:2-4**

b. God looks at the _____ when choosing leaders.

Speaking of giant killers, King David, of course rushes into this lesson. He stands as the perfect example of a person with the heart of a king, yet no training as a king. God gave him the heart but he had to be molded into a king.

c. God chooses us based on our hearts and trains us according to our _____. **1 Sam 16:6-12**

God can do more with a person who is willing and less skilled than He can with an incredibly gifted person who is full of him or herself or simply won't yield to serving.

David was a man who loved God and had courage to stand against a giant while more qualified soldiers were being cowards, hiding down in the trenches. He stood successfully against impossible odds because he was **willing to trust God to use him** even though he seemed unqualified to everyone else. David had potential as a leader –

but had to be willing to choose to make himself available to God for development. **Saul chased him around in the wilderness for 4 years!**

Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary defines potential as "existing in possibility." The purpose of these classes is to give you an opportunity to present your potential for leadership to God and allow Him to develop you into a giant killer! Unlocking your potential will require the discipline to finish and make a firm commitment to serve.

d. A disciple is a "learner under _____."

John 8:31 NKJV *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

John 13:35 NKJV *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Matt 16:24-25 NKJV *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Disciple means: ***behavior resulting from disciplined training; self control.***

Discipline means: ***steady effort.***

Becoming a disciple or a leader after God's own heart is going to require that we master discipline. That means going against your feelings at times.

1 Cor 9:27 NKJV *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection*

Over the last twenty years, I have been diligent to be disciplined to serve God through serving others. I've been faithful to stay on course and serve through all kinds of personal issues, sicknesses, emotional attacks, persecution and hardships. God has been faithful to promote me and He will promote you too if you start and stay on course!

Even though I looked like a person with little to no potential at first, self discipline with the power of the Holy Spirit has empowered me to unlock potential and possibilities in my life I never dreamed possible.