

The Entitlement Trap

Day Two: The Heart of a Servant

Scripture: *"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."* — **Mark 10:45 (NIV)**

Devotional

There are two questions that reveal the condition of our hearts.

The first is, **"Who's going to help me?"**

The second is, **"Who can I help today?"**

One is rooted in entitlement.

The other is rooted in service.

The world teaches us that success is measured by how many people wait on us. The higher you climb, the more people should cater to your needs, recognize your accomplishments, and make your life easier.

God's Kingdom turns that idea upside down.

Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, had every right to demand honor, comfort, and recognition. Instead, He chose humility. He stepped out of heaven, took on human flesh, and lived among the very people He created.

He didn't arrive wearing a crown of gold.

He wore a crown of thorns.

He wasn't carried into Jerusalem on a magnificent war horse.

He rode on a borrowed donkey.

He didn't build an earthly palace.

He often had no place to lay His head.

If anyone ever deserved to be served, it was Jesus.

Yet His life was defined by serving others.

He stopped for the overlooked.

He touched the untouchable.

He welcomed children when His disciples tried to send them away.

He fed hungry crowds.

He healed the sick.

He comforted the brokenhearted.

He forgave sinners.

And perhaps one of the most incredible moments recorded in Scripture happened the night before His crucifixion.

Jesus wrapped a towel around His waist, knelt before His disciples, and began washing their feet.

That may not sound extraordinary to us today, but in biblical times, washing feet was one of the lowest jobs imaginable. People walked dusty roads wearing sandals, and their feet became filthy. This task was usually reserved for the lowest servant in the household.

Yet the Son of God willingly knelt before fishermen, tax collectors, and ordinary men—including Judas, the disciple who would betray Him in just a few hours.

Think about that.

Jesus washed the feet of the man who would sell Him for thirty pieces of silver.

He knew betrayal was coming.

He served anyway.

What an incredible picture of grace.

Entitlement says, "I'll **serve people who deserve it.**"

Jesus says, "**Serve because I first served you.**"

When Service Feels Inconvenient

Serving isn't always glamorous.

Sometimes serving means making dinner after you've worked all day.

Sometimes it means listening when you're tired.

Sometimes it means volunteering when no one notices.

Sometimes it means forgiving someone who never apologized.

Sometimes it means giving up your seat, your schedule, your comfort, or your preferences so someone else can be blessed.

These moments rarely make headlines.

But they matter deeply to God.

Our culture often encourages us to ask:

"What's in it for me?"

The Bible encourages us to ask:

"How can I glorify God by helping someone else?"

The difference may seem small, but it changes everything.

The Trap of Keeping Score

One of the quickest ways entitlement sneaks into our hearts is by keeping score.

"I helped them three times."

"They never call me."

"I'm always the one giving."

"I shouldn't have to do this again."

If we're honest, we've all had thoughts like these.

The problem with scorekeeping is that it shifts our focus from God's faithfulness to other people's failures.

Jesus never asked us to love only when it was convenient.

He didn't say, "Serve others only if they appreciate you."

He simply said to love one another.

Our motivation for serving shouldn't be applause.

It should be obedience.

When nobody notices your kindness, God does.

When nobody thanks you, God sees.

When your acts of service go unnoticed, heaven keeps perfect records.

Colossians 3:23 reminds us:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

You're never just serving people.

You're serving Christ.

Greatness Looks Different in God's Kingdom

Our world celebrates celebrities, influencers, CEOs, and people with impressive titles.

God celebrates servants.

He notices the mother quietly praying over her children.

The grandfather faithfully reading his Bible every morning.

The volunteer stacking chairs after church.

The caregiver helping an aging parent.

The friend who sits beside someone who's grieving.

The neighbor who cuts another person's grass without expecting anything in return.

These acts may seem small to the world.

But they are enormous in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said in Matthew 23:11,

"The greatest among you will be your servant."

Imagine how different our families, churches, workplaces, and communities would look if every believer woke up each morning asking,

"Who can I bless today?"

Instead of,

"What can I get today?"

That's the heart of a servant.

Reflection Questions

- Do I expect others to serve me more than I serve them?
- Have I been keeping score in my relationships?
- Am I willing to serve even when no one notices?
- Is there someone God is asking me to love through humble service today?

Today's Challenge

Find one opportunity today to serve someone **without expecting recognition or repayment.**

It could be:

- Write an encouraging note.
- Buy someone's coffee.
- Help a coworker without being asked.
- Call someone who's lonely.
- Pray with a friend.
- Do a household chore that isn't "your responsibility."
- Visit someone who can't leave home.
- Serve quietly, without posting about it or telling anyone.

Then ask yourself tonight:

Did serving someone else bring me closer to Jesus?

Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus, who showed me what true greatness looks like.
Forgive me for the times I've expected others to meet my needs before considering theirs.

Remove selfishness, pride, and entitlement from my heart. Give me eyes to see people the way You see them and hands that are willing to serve without seeking recognition. Help me love like Jesus loved, give like Jesus gave, and serve with humility, even when no one notices. May my life point others to You through simple acts of kindness and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Truth

Entitlement asks, "Who will serve me?" A heart transformed by Christ asks, "Whose feet can I wash today?"