MMBS Message Outline – Servant Leadership Introduction and Call to Self-Assessment

Stephen Ewing – 12.4.24

Key Verses: Mark 10:42-45 and Philippians 2:3-8

Question: When you think about leadership, what attributes/characteristics come to mind?

While the types of attributes/characteristics that come to mind are important, of greater importance is their ___source.___

Question: When we consider servant leadership, do those attributes/characteristics change?

Servant Leadership is:

"The servant-leader is servant first…. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first…….A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong." – Robert Greenleaf

Servant leadership requires that the __leader__ becomes a ___servant___ first. Putting the needs of others before our own to encourage them to grow and become all God has designed them to be.

Question: Why should we prescribe to this leadership mindset? (Sunday school answer!)

MARK 10:42-45

"And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rules of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But is shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his lie as a ransom for many.""

If anyone __deserved__ to be served, it was Jesus! Yet, he postures himself as a servant and commands his__followers__ to do the same.

"The reversal of all human ideas of greatness and rank was achieved when Jesus came, not to be served, but to serve." – William Lane NT Theologian and Professor of Biblical Studies

3 examples of Jesus being a servant leader:

1.) Washing of the disciples feet – John 13
2.) Jesus heals the woman who bled for 12 years – Luke 8:40-48
3.) The crucifixion of Jesus

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which in yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

3 attributes of servant leadership to draw from Philippians 2:

1.) My ambitions should not drive my__ decisions __.
2.) Think of others__ more __than I think of myself.
3.) Not just about what's in it for me, what's in it for those God has __ called __ me to lead.

"Ultimately our Christian service exists only to draw attention to this source – to our crucified and risen Lord who gave himself as the ransom for all."

Discussion Questions:

1.) When considering your current leadership style, how would you say your leadership lines up with the attributes/characteristics of servant leadership?
2.) What are some examples in which you have had success in your leadership when posturing yourself as servant first?
3.) What are some areas of your leadership that you feel need to grow in service? Who or what has God placed on your heart to serve better?

"Homework":

Take some time this week and evaluate your leadership. As a group, we are going to press in to servant leadership in different areas of your life over our next 4 meetings. While it may be difficult, seek the Lord in prayer about your leadership as a follower of Jesus and ask him to guide you through an assessment of where you are and where you have been over the last year.

Resources:

- Robert Greenleaf – Servant Leadership
- C Gene Wilkes – Jesus on Leadership
- Peter Scazzero – The Emotionally Healthy Leader
- Hugh Whelchel – How Then Should We Work: *Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work.*