

## 'NOT MY JOB': THE MASTER WE COULD NEVER OUTSERVE

John 13:1-17

11.23.25

Jesus' followers serve others, not because they are our master, but because He is

*Four stubborn excuses that crumble before our Master's compelling call to generous service:*

### A PERSPECTIVE TO CULTIVATE — "I'M HERE TO SERVE"

EXCUSE #1 '**NOT ME**: BELOW MY PAYGRADE' — '*...he loved them to the end...knowing...*' (1-3)

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No one is **above** this call | Learn to see the yourself and the world the way that Jesus does

*Three 'legitimate' smokescreens Jesus' refuses to use as rhetorical claims to hide behind:*

#### *What We've Done*

#1 **ACCOMPLISHMENT** — "DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE DONE ALREADY?" — '*...having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end...*' (1)

Our Master's heart of generous service *doesn't hide behind a reasonable record of sufficient past expressions*

#### *What We're Facing*

#2 **VICTIMHOOD** — "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST?" — '*...During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him...*' (2)

Our Master's heart of generous service *doesn't hide behind wrongs suffered—past, present, or future*

#### *Who We Are*

#3 **ENTITLEMENT** — "DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?" — '*...Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God ...*' (3)

Our Master's heart of generous service *doesn't hide behind a legitimately privileged status*

### A PICTURE TO APPRECIATE — THE ULTIMATE MASTER PERFORMING THE LOWLIEST DUTY

EXCUSE #2 '**NOT THAT**: SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM' — '*...Jesus...began to wash...feet...*' (4-5)

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No task is **beneath** this call | Embrace the beauty of the ordinary

*Four simple qualities show our Master's generous heart of service in slow motion:*

#### *Why It Happens*

#1 **READINESS** — STEP UP: YOU CAN MAKE THE TIME — '*...rose from supper...*' (4a)

Our Master's heart of generous service *is self-initiated; it chooses inconvenience without outside pressure*

#### *How It Feels*

#2 **ORDINARINESS** — GET DIRTY: YOU CAN DO THE WORK — '*...He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin ...*' (4b-5a)

Our Master's heart of generous service *is not afraid to get dirty*

#### *What It Does*

#3 **HELPFULNESS** — HELP OUT: YOU CAN MEET A NEED — '*...began to wash...feet...*' (5b)

Our Master's heart of generous service *is not merely performative, but purposeful; brings genuine blessing to others*

#### *When It Ends*

#4 **STEADFASTNESS** — FINISH: YOU CAN COMPLETE THE TASK – ‘...and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him ...’ (5c)

Our Master’s heart of generous service *doesn’t* rush; it completes tasks in ways that leave a better final state

#### **PARAMETERS TO ELIMINATE** — “I’LL SERVE THE ‘DESERVING’ ”

EXCUSE #3 ‘NOT **THEM**: WASTE OF TIME’ — ‘...he knew who was to betray him ...’ (6-11)

**No recipient lies beyond this call** | Stop keeping score. Relinquish your demand for appreciation or reciprocation.

*Three gross ‘disqualifications’ that don’t stop Jesus’ intention to serve:*

#### *How Little They Understand*

#1 **MISUNDERSTANDING** — “THEY DON’T GET IT” – ‘...Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now....” ...’ (6-7)

Our Master’s heart of generous service *doesn’t* demand appreciation

#### *How Much They Grandstand*

#2 **OVERSHADOWING** — “THEY MAKE IT ALL ABOUT THEM” – ‘...Peter said to him, “You shall never....’ (8-10a)

Our Master’s heart of generous service is not thrown off by other’s attempts to hijack attention with dramatic grandstanding or one-upmanship

#### *How Far They Truly Stand*

#3 **UNDERMINING** — ‘THEY’RE JUST USING ME” – ‘...And you are clean, but not every one of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ...’ (10b-11)

Our Master’s heart of generous service is not afraid to be taken for granted; nor constrained to the deserving

#### **A POSTURE TO IMITATE & REPLICATE** — “WATCH. LISTEN. FOLLOW.”

EXCUSE #4 ‘NOT **REALLY**: OK, GOT IT; LET’S MOVE ON’ — ‘...you...should do just as I...’ (12-17)

**There’s no way around this call** | Don’t settle for ‘I got it’; continue on to ‘here I go.’

*Clear threefold pattern to the master-teacher’s lesson for us:*

#### *What He Shows*

#1 **DEMONSTRATION** — SHOW THEM: PROVIDE THE MODEL – ‘... When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place he said to them, “Do you understand...? ...’ (12)

Our Master’s heart of generous service is not just a good idea in concept; it’s a genuine blessing in real life

#### *What He Says*

#2 **INSTRUCTION** — TEACH THEM: EXPRESS THE PRINCIPLE – ‘...I have given you an example....’ (13-16)

Our Master’s heart of generous service gives more than a specific ritual to repeat, it’s a holistic posture to maintain

#### *What He Expects*

#3 **EXPECTATION** — URGE THEM: BESTOW THE MANTLE – ‘...If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them....’ (17)

Our Master’s heart of generous service is not a mere doctrine to acknowledge, but a rewarding practice to apply