

THE PORTRAIT OF A SERVANT

Text: John 13:23

Key Word: Servant

Key Thought: What Does a Servant of God Look Like?

God is a Master originator who has never lost His touch to create beautiful things. He is not only talented in creating but also in refashioning and remolding. If our life were compared to a canvas, I wonder what kind of impression would appear as God creates a portrait of us? Perhaps we've already stated the masterpiece without Him but are not satisfied with the results so far. Some of us may see ourselves as a complete portrait that is ready to be admired.

I Would like to Suggest Seven Distinct Features That Are Required If We Are to Appear as a Portrait of a Servant.

- I. HEAD LEANING ON THE MASTER (John 13:23)**
- II. EYES LOOKING TO THE MASTER (Hebrews 12:2a)**
- III. EARS LISTENING TO THE MASTER (Luke 10:38,39)**
- IV. VOICE SPEAKING FOR THE MASTER (Acts 4:29)**
- V. HEART SEEKING AFTER THE MASTER (Psalm 84:2)**
- VI. HANDS WORKING FOR THE MASTER (Matthew 21:2)**
- VII. FEET FOLLOWING THE MASTER (Luke 5:10b-11)**

I. HEAD LEANING ON THE MASTER (John 13:23)

We need our minds renewed to be used of God. Are we willing to lay our thoughts over the heart of Jesus? We enter life in our later teenage years with our minds full of ideas, customs and beliefs. Some people believe some things in life are too personal to share with others. We must not see it as a betrayal to rest these thoughts on the bosom of the One we serve and trust. He can help evaluate our thought patterns and offer us a better direction of thought.

The Last Supper was a place set apart and prepared for an unrushed dialogue between our Lord and His servants. It was a place of comfort as well as challenge. It offered direction as well as discipline. John the beloved disciple sensed the warmth that radiated from the Lord as He spoke of His betrayal. The disciples could have stomped out of the room as Jesus accused one of them of being a traitor. Instead it set the stage for further steps of growth in the lives of the disciples. As servants we must be willing to lay our heads on the bosom of our Master and allow Him to remold our thoughts.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 2:5

II. EYES LOOKING TO THE MASTER (Hebrews 12:2a)

Advertisers today know that in order for them to sell their product they must first capture our attention. They struggle constantly for newer variations of colours, flashing lights, symbols and music to draw upon the strolling eye. Every eye becomes a potential sale. The shame of it is that many eyes have turned away from Jesus in order to follow the bright lights and have ended in doom and despair. There is a better direction to look.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, . . . “

Hebrews 12:2a

When we lose the focus of our Lord, our eyes seem to drop to the world with all its delights, pleasures and attractions.

*** When Leonardo de Vinci finished painting “**The Last Supper**,” he invited a friend over to view it. The friend looked in awe as he admired the communion cup and became oblivious of all else.

Leonardo reached for his brush, dipped it into the paint, and with one bold stroke, wiped out the cup! “Fool” he said, “Look at the Master’s face!” The friend has missed the glory of the painting because his eyes looked down to the shining cup.

What the world needs today is artists of truth who exclaim, “*look, beyond the glitter of this world - **LOOK UP AND BEHOLD THE MASTER’S FACE.***”

III. EARS LISTENING TO THE MASTER (Luke 10:38,39)

“As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

39. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said.”

Luke 10:38,39

Martha gave an invitation for Jesus to remain at her house for a short time. She got preoccupied with carrying for His needs that she lost precious moments with Him. She was thinking what had to be done to prepare for the meal, set the table and serve the food. Martha became upset with Mary for not helping with the sudden increase of work that need to be done. Mary was simply sitting at the feet of Jesus to hear every word He spoke.

III. EARS LISTENING TO THE MASTER (Luke 10:38,39) (Contd.)

Jesus doesn't enter our midst to be served. His main purpose is to prepare us to serve others. We all need time to spend at Jesus' feet and immerse ourselves in Him. It's a shame when we become burdened and troubled about the details of service while neglecting the greatest need we have.

Jesus understood about Martha's concern to get the work done but He never encouraged her to continue to work her way into His acceptance. That is a pressure than none of us need to face. Jesus had the answer for her.

"But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:42

Today is no different. The same truth is ringing out from heaven for the Church to hear.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:7

IV. VOICE SPEAKING FOR THE MASTER (Acts 4:29)

"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."

Acts 4:29

Once we hear the Word of God we then have a duty to declare it as God offers us opportunity. There are many Christians who won't speak up for fear of being threatened. God wants His disciples **motivated by love not fear**. Words of truth can be shared from each and every one of us as we surrender our voice to God. God is able to fill us with His Spirit in such a way that our spirit and strength are renewed in Him.

IV. VOICE SPEAKING FOR THE MASTER (Acts 4:29) (Contd.)

*** Dr. F.B. Meyer, a prince of exegesis and a powerful preacher, was on his last visit to America. A large audience had assembled in New York City at a church to hear his speak. Weak and wobbly, Dr. Meyer was helped to the platform by two men, one on either side. Sitting in an elevated chair and with great physical exertion, he began his message. The audience began to wonder if he would be able to last through the service

As he spoke, a miracle of God's enabling power was enacted before their very eyes. Dr. Meyer stood to his feet. The vigor of his earlier years returned and for an hour and a quarter there flowed gracious words of wisdom from his lips. ***

V. HEART SEEKING AFTER THE MASTER (Psalm 84:2)

“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”

Psalm 84:2

Our heart has been called the seat of our emotions. There is no better way to fulfill our emotions than seeking after God. It brings new life and a new hope to our soul.

“The poor (humble - KJV) will seek and be glad - you who seek God, may your hearts live!”

Psalm 69:32

If our hearts desire fellowship with our Master, it will also reach out to embrace our families, neighbors, friends and the unsaved.

**“Every heart without Christ is a mission field,
Every heart with Christ is a missionary.”**

To have a heart after God is also to sense His heartbeat for a lost and dying world.

V. HEART SEEKING AFTER THE MASTER (Psalm 84:2) (Contd.)

*** When a father, who lived on the Western prairies, came home one night, his little boy ran through the long grass to meet him. Suddenly the boy disappeared. Running through the grass to the point where his boy vanished, the man heard a gurgling cry. His son had fallen into an old well. The father barely reached the well in time to save the boy.

When the lad revived from the ordeal he asked, “Daddy, why didn’t you hurry?” The father said later, “My son’s question made a missionary out of me. I seemed to hear the piteous cry of myriads in the regions beyond calling out, “Why don’t you hurry? We are dying without God and without hope. Why don’t you hurry with the Gospel?”” ***

Is our heart seeking after God enough to hear the cry of lost souls?

VI. HANDS WORKING FOR THE MASTER (Matthew 21:2)

“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.”

Matthew 21:2

It is said that one of the most difficult parts of the body for an artist to paint is a human hand. God created our hands in a unique manner to serve many useful purposes. There are many people who use their hands for what may appear to be menial tasks. It was not considered an act of honour or dignity to lead a donkey and its colt through a village. Yet it was a task that needed to be done in order that prophecy might be fulfilled. **One person could have easily accomplished the task but two disciples were sent.** They not only went but they also did as the Lord commanded them without questioning His purpose.

Their simple act gave preparation for a unique type of worship service to take place. The people began to shout,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest!”

Matthew 21:9

It seems like God often uses the faithful working of our hands to draw people to Himself. The disciple’s act went unnoticed to the multitudes but without it the fulfillment of prophecy might have been delayed.

VII. FEET FOLLOWING THE MASTER (Luke 5:10b-11)

“Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.’”

11. So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:10b,11

The disciples were common fishermen but yet were not foolish when it came to understanding of their trade. They were persistent, toiling all night and yet they caught nothing. When the Master entered into one of their ships, He first taught the people and then made what might have appeared to be an unreasonable request. He asked these tired fishermen to second-mile-it and launch their boat back into the deep water and lower their nets. They soon caught more fish than their two ships could safely contain.

This experience caused these men to leave their trade and walk with Jesus. They not only left their only means of occupation, the Bible says they “left everything and followed him.” Jesus enticed them by promising that they would now be used to catch men - soul winners.

*** A shepherd counted his sheep and noticed that three were missing. The continual snowfall warned him that the time was short and they would perish if not soon found.

He called his dog and held up one finger and said, “Go!” Into the storm she went and returned with the lamb. He held up his finger again and said, “Go!” The dog went back into the storm in search of the missing sheep. Later the shepherd heard the dog return.

He put the sheep into the fold and sent the dog forth the third time and when she returned the shepherd noticed blood on the snow and on the dog’s side. He placed the sheep into safety and went back to sleep.

The next morning he summoned the dog but she failed to come. Looking in the shed he noticed her corpse as she had died of wounds inflicted from battling wounds to save the last sheep her master had sent her to find. ***

Jesus has given us feet to be used to search out and carry the lost sheep home. I’m sure a sheep dog is not more faithful than God’s servants. Our feet need to be *“fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15).*

We each stand alone as a portrait. God is the One who wishes to create a Masterpiece of us. We can all become a priceless piece of art, fit for the Master's use. Let us be a **Portrait of a Servant.**

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Date: Aug 18/24
Date: Dec 01/96
Apr 29/84

Place: FCA
Place: FCA
EGT Valedictorian

Time: 10:30
Time: 10:30
11:00 Am

Song: LORD Reign in Me - G

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Philippians 2:5

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Luke 10:38,39; Luke 10:42; Revelation 2:7

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Psalm 84:2; Psalm 69:32

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Matthew 21:2; Matthew 21:9

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Luke 5:10b,11; Ephesians 6:15