

# Jesus Is Willing to Help and Serve Me with Patience

## Lesson 8

### Introduction:

- A. A friend is someone who will help when you have a need.
- B. A friend is someone who will ask you for help when he or she has a need.

### I. JESUS DEMONSTRATED HIS PATIENCE WITH THE APOSTLES BY HELPING THEM TO RESOLVE AN ISSUE THAT CAME UP OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

- A. Who will be the greatest?

And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers (Matthew 20:24).

Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest (Mark 9:33, 34).

Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest (Luke 9:46).

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest (Luke 22:24).

- B. Jesus answered and illustrated the way to greatness over and over again.

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:25-28).

And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me” (Mark 9:35-37).

And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great” (Luke 9:47, 48).

And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so *among* you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves” (Luke 22:25-27).

C. It is interesting to notice the occasion of each argument concerning the issue of greatness.

1. Notice what Jesus had just discussed preceding each dispute.

Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again” (Matthew 20:17-19).

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know *it*. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him (Mark 9:30-32).

“Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying” (Luke 9:44, 45).

“But behold, the hand of My betrayer *is* with Me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing (Luke 22:21-23).

2. The last dispute followed a significant event.

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19, 20).

## II. WHEN TALKING HAD NOT RESOLVED THE QUESTION OF GREATNESS, JESUS GAVE AN EXAMPLE, AN OBJECT LESSON.

- A. Jesus performed a lowly act of service. John 13:3-11
- B. Jesus did the act, then He reviewed the lesson.
  1. He checked for understanding.

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?” (John 13:12).

- a. Many people see, but never understand.
- b. Change, growth, real help, and learning comes from understanding.

“For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
 Their ears are hard of hearing,  
 And their eyes they have closed,  
 Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears,  
 Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,  
 So that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

2. Jesus washed their feet, not just to get their feet clean, but to teach a lesson.

“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:13-15).

3. He put the issue of greatness in perspective.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him” (John 13:16).

4. When a lesson has been given, we get a passing grade and a diploma only if we complete the assignment.

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:17).

5. Much of our effectiveness as a helper and teacher will be determined by how we relate to people.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me” (John 13:20).

He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me” (Matthew 10:40).

III. JESUS' GREATEST ACT OF SERVICE WAS THE GIVING OF HIS LIFE.

A. In this, He taught us about service.

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:16-18).

1. He died because He chose to serve and to do the will of His Father.

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17, 18).

2. He died with much struggle and pain. Matthew 27:45-50
3. He served, died, knowing the reward that would be His.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1,2).

B. These same principles need to be a part of my service to others.

1. Choice.
2. Much service will involve inconvenience and pain.
3. I will be rewarded.

IV. JESUS IS STILL SERVING US TODAY.

A. He talks to God, the Father for us.

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

B. He is our Advocate.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).

1. He pleads our case from personal knowledge and experience of pain and difficulty.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

2. A defense lawyer can only be helpful when we have told Him what we have done that needs His defense.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Conclusion:

- A. What is something we can learn from the disciples of Jesus in their disagreements that can be helpful in working with others who are troubled?
- B. What are some ways you might be able to show a friend something you have been trying to tell him?
- C. What are some ways we can make efforts for people to receive us in order that they might receive Jesus?
  - 1. When are some times that it might be helpful to talk to someone else in behalf of a friend?
  - 2. When would it be appropriate to stand beside a friend and plead his cause?
  - 3. What is a situation that one might “lay down his life” for a friend without actually dying for that person?
- D. How are we saying “good-bye” to the members of this class?