



Jesus, the Servant

Devotion

“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).

This verse always carries me back to my freshman year at Concordia-New York. I was registered for a class in New Testament. My professor was the Rev. Carl F. W. Weidmann, beloved by all the students but especially to those studying to become pastors. Early in the class, this seasoned pastor and teacher told us the one verse we should learn and take to heart was Mark 10:45.

When we ask young ones what they want to be when they grow up, they might say a policeman, a fireman, an actress, or a bookkeeper. It's doubtful that many would say they want to be a servant. **A servant!** That is just what our Lord Jesus chose to be. He was God, yet He came to serve. He elected to come to earth and offer Himself as a slave. He followed the Father's directions. He yielded to His Father's will. He *made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!* (Philippians 2:7–8).

Throughout the Old Testament, we read how God required sin offerings from His people to cover their sins. They often brought a lamb to sacrifice. Since the offering was a pre-figuring of the Lamb who sacrificed Himself for us, they had to select the most perfect lamb from their flock, healthy, young, and unblemished. The faithful people of Israel, like us, had to realize the seriousness of their sin, and they, too, were saved by the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb. This is why Jesus left heaven's glory and came to earth. We are sinners and we needed a sacrifice to be forgiven. Jesus is our Lamb. Because Jesus was sinless, He is our perfect sacrifice – so perfect that His death covered all sins for all time. His is the once-and-for-all sacrifice.

How is God calling you to serve? How does He want you to bring His love to others? Whose feet is He asking you to wash? How might you serve within your congregation? May we joyfully, gleefully, anxiously, eternally, serve others even as our Lord Jesus so willingly served us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when You left heaven and came to earth, You humbled Yourself and became our servant. The ultimate act of service You performed was when You gave Your life on the cross to save ours. Thank You, dear Savior! Work in us so that we might show the fruits of faith by our service to others with humble hearts. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the NIV.

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