



IMA SERVANT

Characters: Ima Servant (pronounced - I'm a Servant), the theme presenter.
Imy Self (pronounced - I my Self), Ima's personal heckler, sitting in audience. (*If it is a large audience, a hand microphone will help her be more easily heard.*)

Narrator

Four Readers

Narrator: Today we will hear a presentation on service written and presented by Ima Servant. (*Ima comes forward.*)

Ima Servant: Service is a word with which the secular world is very familiar. We hear all about "Service With A Smile," "Service Is Our Middle Name," "Quality Service Is What You Get" and "Our Service Is Number One!" We know all about "Service Contracts," "Twenty-Four Hour Service," "Self Service," "Full Service"...

Imy Self: (*Standing up in audience*) Hey!!! Back up there a minute. Let me introduce myself. My name is "IMY SELF" and I'm quite an expert on that "self service" bit. Actually, that is kind of - well, it is my motto! And all of those other services add shine for me. I want your full service. I want and I expect to receive your twenty-four hour number one quality service with a smile. All too often, though, I'm sure that I'm not getting my fair share of all that service. I know my neighbor gets a lot more than I do! She always gets what she wants when she wants it. Me, I have to wait and wait for what I want. (*Imy sits back down.*)

Ima Servant: Our modern times have made equality an essential item. We want to be treated like everyone else and have just as much as our neighbor has. We want to have what we want as quickly as, if not quicker than they have it, or we feel cheated.

In theory, equality is a basic Christian principle. In God's eyes we are all equal, and He does love us all the same. In our everyday practice, however, our desire for equality of the sexes, races, clout, etc. usually becomes more of a contest to see who can get the most for himself or herself.

In short, I, MY SELF, want everyone, especially myself, to give service only to myself. When I, MY SELF, do something for another person, it is often just to make I, MY SELF feel better.

Imy Self: *(Standing back up)* Now you've got it right! Everyone in the world should consider themselves **MY** servant! *(Imy moves toward the front as Ima speaks.)*

Ima Servant: Everyone in the world should consider themselves everyone else's servant.

Imy Self: What?

Ima Servant: Let me go on with my presentation. It might help to clarify things for you.

(Imy sits down again.)

Ima Servant: We have concentrated so resolutely on the notion of equality, that the concept of servanthood has escaped us. We understand the concept of service, but do we understand what it means to be a servant?

Today we have machines and gadgets to help us get our work done, but until sometime in the early years of this century, many people either had servants or they were servants. Homeowners needed a man to cut the firewood, take care of the yard and do maintenance. A woman was needed in the home to help with the laundry, cleaning, cooking and sewing. It was essential for existence that everyone help each other. The servant served the master, and the master took care of the servant.

When a person went into service, as they called it in earlier days, they did so expecting to stay a servant for the rest of their lives. Without much free time, they spent almost every waking hour of every day being of service to their master or mistress.

Imy Self: *(Stands up again and comes forward)* That's all very informative, but I don't and **won't** have a master to serve. Remember modern times, equality, and all that?

Ima Servant: Ahhhh, but you see, we **DO** have a Master, even if we have no desire to recognize Him, let alone serve Him. Our Triune God, our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier...He is our Master. We serve Him by becoming a servant to others. He became our example when He served His people by healing, teaching, comforting them, and giving glory to the Father. Look at His example to His disciples at His Last Supper. Let us listen to John 13:1,3-5, and 12-17.

Reader 1: *It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

Reader 2: *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

Reader 3: *When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."*

Ima Servant: What better example or definition of service could we have than our Lord - our Triune Lord - not only telling us, but showing us, to give service to others, to the fullest extent of its meaning, that we might be blessed with great happiness!

Imy Self: Ima Servant, I know that I, Imy Self, am your own personal heckler, but I actually think I am beginning to see what you are trying to say in your presentation. We can be happiest, be blessed and have joy when we serve the Lord, our Master, which we do by serving other people. But how do I serve others in this day and age of service but not servanthood?

Ima Servant: Remember the story Jesus told of the shepherd separating the sheep from the goats? He said in Matthew 25:34-40:

Reader 4: *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

Ima Servant: Even here Jesus is telling his disciples that to take care of Him, we need only to take care of those around us - just meet their needs. We begin with prayer, of course, just as Jesus always did. Then we can get busy. There is always something for us to do. Maybe we can't get to the prison, but we can send

cards. Maybe we don't know any hungry, thirsty or unclothed persons, but we can give to a food bank or mission center. Maybe we are unable to visit the sick, the lonely or the strangers in our community, but we can make phone calls to shut-ins each day to check on them and offer encouragement. We could help staple and sort the church newsletter or fold bulletins. Even when our physical bodies will not allow us to do anything else, we can ask others for prayer requests and pray for those in need. There is always some manner in which we can be a servant and serve our Lord.

Imy Self: You know, Ima Servant, you have really cleared up a lot of my questions about being a servant and being happy about being a servant. The more I think of others and the less I think about myself, the happier I will be. You really had a good presentation started there - too bad we don't have time to finish it!

Ima Servant: You're right! It can only be finished as we, in our daily lives, follow our Master's example and **SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

Closing Song: "Make Me a Servant" All God's People Sing! 174

All Scripture is from NIV.

IMA SERVANT - *Written* by Kathie Kaufman
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