

At Your Service

Submitted by Elder Anita McConnell

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

“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.”

You hear this phrase often when someone wants you to know that they are available to help you with whatever you need. They are ready and available for your use. “I am happy to be at your service.”

Being tasked to write this devotional, I immediately said yes, because I am always willing. But as I began to think about it, I began feeling overwhelmed thinking about all the other things I must do. Between family, work, studying for school, studying for ministry, and serving in the church, I could only focus on the challenge of adding ONE MORE THING to my already full plate. I’m sure a lot of us have been there. You feel like you already have too much going on. Before thinking about adding something else, you need to think about what you can take off. I concluded that I did not have any additional time for anything else. It wasn’t long before I realized that it is truly an honor and a privilege to be a servant of Jesus Christ and to be used for his service. ***Lord, I am at your service.***

I began to reflect and was drawn to this scripture in Mark 10:45.

In the kingdom of God, the standard is SERVICE. Greatness is not about how many people are at your service, but how many people have you served. The test is not what service can I get from others, but what service can I give.

The basic trouble is that most people want to do as little as possible and get as much as possible. William Barclay points out in his book entitled “Mark”, “It is only when we are filled with the desire to put into life more than we take out, that life for ourselves and others will be happy and prosperous.”

Rudyard Kipling has a poem called “Mary’s Son” which is advice on the spirit in which work must be done:

*If you stop to find out what your wages will be
And how they will clothe and feed you,
Willie, my son, don't you go on the Sea,
For the Sea will never need you.*

*If you ask for the reason of every command,
And argue with people about you,
Willie, my son, don't you go on the Land,
For the Land will do better without you.*

*If you stop to consider the work you have done
And to boast what your labor is worth, dear,
Angels may come for you, Willie, my son,
But you'll never be wanted on Earth, dear!*

The world needs people whose focus is on service. With the powers that Jesus had, he could have arranged life entirely to suit himself, but all his powers were spent serving others. “Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many” indicates that it cost the life of Jesus to bring men and women back from their sin into the love of God. It means the cost of our salvation was the cross of Christ. Beyond that, we cannot go, and beyond that we do not need to go. We only know that something happened on the cross which opened for us the way to God.

As you consider all the things that are already on your full plate, remember that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. Do not allow anyone to change your mind. Always do your best work for the Lord. You know that whatever you do for Him will not be wasted. We should focus on pleasing the Lord, realizing that there is no eternal value in the things of the world. So, I'll close with this, *“Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58*