**Rewards and Challenges for Servanthood**

While a servant does not work with the expectation of being rewarded, there are certain benefits for service in the kingdom of God. Jesus pronounces blessing on those engaged in service (*Matthew 24: 45-47; Luke 12:37, 42-44*). God honors servants for their labor (*John 12:26*), and they receive an inheritance (*Colossians 3:23-24*). Jesus explains that those who serve in the kingdom, even doing menial tasks for others, will be rewarded greatly (*Matthew 25:31-46*).

**Servanthood Challenges**

 ***There was a man, though some did count him mad,***

 ***The more he cast away, the more he had. – John Bunyan***

Challenge of Giving (*Ecclesiastes 11:1; Luke 6:38; 10:25-37*)

Challenge of Serving (*John 13:3-17*)

Challenge of Humility (*Mark 9:35: Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:5-6*)

***Right here we must see the difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant. When we chose to serve, we are still in charge. We decide whom we will serve and when we will serve. And if we are in charge, we will worry a great deal about anyone stepping on us, that is, taking charge over us. But when we choose to be a servant, we give up the right to be in charge. There is great freedom in this. If we voluntarily choose to be taken advantage of, then we cannot be manipulated. When we choose to be a servant, we surrender the right to decide when we will serve. We become available and vulnerable. –Richard Foster***

***It is not my aching back that prevents me from helping my neighbor any more than my choleric temperament. It’s my don’t –wanna-do-it attitude that does it. –Emily Carder***

**Practical Servanthood (Worship + Service=Opportunities for Evangelism)**

Worship-grants God the right to invade my life: by recognizing God as Sovereign, we relinquish all rights to ourselves (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23).*

***Blessed is the servant who esteems himself no more highly when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, foolish, and to be despised; since what a man is before God, that he is and nothing more.-Francis of Assisi***

Service-allows God to invade the lives of others through me: when we serve others, we serve God (*Matthew 10:40-42),* allowing others to see Him actively working in our lives (*1 Corinthians 9:19*) Service practically demonstrates our Christianity: our faith (*relationship with God*) needs an outlet to be demonstrated to those around us, not just to “church folks” (*James 1:27; 2:14-26*)

***The Church has earned the reputation of being concerned only for itself. Others have concluded this because the answer to every question is to do something else for ourselves; let’s pray more, let’s conduct another citywide prayer and worship event…Let’s tell people what we think about this issue, and so on. It is always about us. If we are going to become an agent of spiritual and social transformation it is going to have to be about them. –Jack Dennison***

**“You can get in anywhere if you go to serve.”-Brother Andrew*, God’s Smuggler***