

“WHO IS JESUS... ...TO YOU?”

John 13:1-5

Before reading further, STOP a few minutes and jot down your answer to the question posed in the title of this study. I did, and it yielded productive insight into my view of God.

[STOP AND JOT NOW, then continue.]

My answer included: Jesus is love, a friend, peace, my “strong and high tower,” my guide, Truth. What my list didn’t include forms the subject of this “Grace To You” Bible study. There are three things I want you to see. Who is Jesus... *to you?*

First, Jesus is your servant. Can this be? When I began to look and think of Jesus in this way, it almost seemed blasphemous. In fact, the thought still gives me pause as I write this to you. I know that Jesus was a servant in (what the theologians call) His humiliation -- the incarnation and crucifixion. It is clear that throughout His ministry on this earth Jesus was a servant. Matthew 20:28 says, “...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” I know that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53 as the Suffering Servant. But is Jesus a servant, now, in heaven in His exaltation, at the throne of God? Oh, I have learned well the emphasis on my being a servant to Him. Part and parcel of all religions are what we must do for the gods. But *Him* being a servant to *me*? Jesus, my servant? Jesus, your servant? Can it be? He is!

One of the most intriguing passages of Scripture to me is in verse 1 of the text: “Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the uttermost.” The contemplative mind can relish that thought for some time. What I want you to see is what Jesus did because of His great love for the disciples. He washed their feet. He served them. Has that changed? Does Jesus serve us even today? Is the Lord of life still our servant? He is. The truth of the matter is that we have no hope outside of His continuing to serve us; no life, nothing.

He serves you

LIFE LOVE MERCY FORGIVENESS
COMFORT PEACE ANSWERS REST
FAITH (especially to believe when there are no answers)
FELLOWSHIP COMMUNION (He is the “host.”)
ALL PHYSICAL AND TANGIBLE BLESSINGS.

These are some of the ways I can think of Jesus serving me. What can you add to the list?

Second, not only is Jesus your servant, but know this: His service to you doesn’t stop when you sin. Remember... when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, He washed Judas’ feet too; and Jesus knew Judas would betray Him (John 13:10,11). Jesus, the incarnate God, the servant, washing Judas’ feet! Is that astounding? Yes! But it’s no more astounding than Jesus serving you. Jesus’ love for you is not affected by your sin (Romans 5:8,10). His love for you is greater than your sin. He serves you even in your sin. Does that surprise you? Did you think that Jesus’ blessings on you were because you deserve them? Because you are without sin? Because of your innate righteousness? Oh, contraire, dear sinner saint! His blessings on and His service to you are because of His love for you and not because of anything you have or have not done. This is what Paul means by “the riches of His grace.” In His love, mercy and grace, He serves you, even in your sin. Your sin will not keep Him from serving you. If it could, it would mean that you would have to become deserving of His service. That will never happen. It would be a denial of His grace, and a testimony to your merit. Perish the thought!

Then, when all is done in this life, and we arrive in heaven, He still serves us. The Scriptures say that He will wipe away every tear, take away all death, sorrow, and crying. He says, “Behold, I am making all things new.” A new order, a new way of thinking and living will be in place. Kingdom thinking and acting will exist. It will be a divine order where the Greatest of all is the Servant of all. Such is beyond my selfish, self-centered, mind to comprehend; beyond many, in or out of the church, to believe. Paul understood it - “In order that in the ages to come He might show us the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:7). Do you doubt it still? See Jesus’ comments on His Second Coming in Luke

12:35-38 and note particularly verse 37. Understand then, dear friend: Jesus, Lord and God, serves you every moment of your life and then throughout your after-life!

Finally, how do we live when the impact of this truth hits us? We, too, will become servants like Christ Jesus. Like so many things in the Christian life, we don't learn through a lecture; we learn through experience. We don't learn to love through a lesson on love; we learn to love by being loved. We don't learn to forgive by a Bible study on forgiveness; we learn to forgive by being forgiven. In the same way, we don't learn to serve by being badgered with the importance and the necessity of serving. We learn service by being served. Because He loves you to the uttermost, the Omnipotent God, the Creator of the universe, the Savior of Calvary is still your Servant. When this dawns on you, it will so transform your heart that you will be motivated to serve Him from inner depths you did not know existed. As with Paul, "the love of Christ (will) constrain" you to serve.

By the way... when you serve in this way, you enflesh Jesus to others, and it is then that they may believe. Jesus would like that.

Jesus, the Savior is also Jesus, the Servant. This, too, is...

Grace to you,
Stephen N. Johnson

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