

Thought for a Wednesday

November 4, 2009

Physically, I'm exhausted as I type this up – I've just spent the past 5 ½ hours raking and bagging my mother's yard of all the leaves. I never want to rake again... oh, wait – My backyard isn't done yet, so guess what? I'll be raking again this weekend and possibly into next week to finish my yard... Being that my mother lives in a senior park, I really felt compelled to help out her next door neighbor a bit yesterday, so I raked up into the piles I was going to bag half of her yard that borders my Mom's lot. Which I was okay with, since I just starting out and fresh in the morning and my thought was, "No problem... I can handle this!"

As the morning wore on into afternoon and I was near finishing the last pile of leaves, my Mom asks if I could rake up a little section for her neighbor in the back – To which I responded, "What?! Are you crazy?!" Okay, maybe I didn't use those exact words, but you get the gist of my attitude at the moment – I was tired and wanted to be finished, not do more! Reluctantly and I'll admit grumbling, I raked up a portion of the neighbor's yard that Mom had asked me to rake and bagged it up with the rest. It was while raking and bagging that the Holy Spirit reminded me that I was called to be a servant...

[Jesus to disciples] *"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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 10:43-45)

The thought came to me, "How can I deny the One who called me to 'follow Him' and not live by His example. And if He served others, then it is the least that I can do..." I really believe taking a servant's position when it relates to our relationships is what Jesus had in mind when He over and over again modeled this behavior for us...

When he [Jesus] 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." (John 13:12-17)

I can't get away from this that God is far more interested in why you and I serve than in how well we serve – He's always looking at our hearts and are we serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all He's done for us. Truth of the matter is that we are never **MORE** like Jesus than when we serve others!

Might we all consider our response to what Paul said in the letter to the Romans...

"Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" (Romans 15:2, MSG)

Who will you serve this week? Why not ask God to bring to mind someone you could

serve this week and ask him what you should do for that person... or at least open your eyes and look around and see the needs that might be in that person's life that you could address and help them with. And then, like Nike admonishes us in their ads, "*Just Do It!*" Not reluctantly or grumbling like yours truly, but with a grateful and sincere heart!

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ **IS** All!

Pastor Mark