

**TITLE: A SERVANT'S HEART**

**TEXT: 2 COR. 12:9, 10; JOHN 13:1-17; JOHN 10:10**

**THEMES: MINISTRY; SACRIFICIAL LIVING; TRUSTING GOD**

**INTRO**

- EVER THOUGHT YOU HAD IT ROUGH, ONLY TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE WHO REALLY DID?
- EVER WENT THRU A MOMENT & LATER REALIZED YOU MISSED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY?
- WHAT IF, YOUR PRESENT DILEMMA'S NO MORE THAN A PARAGRAPH OR A SINGLE PAGE WITHIN A CHAPTER OF YOUR LIFE; THEN, HOW DO YOU WANT THE STORY TO READ?
- ARE WE NOT ABLE TO LEARN FROM OUR OWN LIFE AS WELL AS FROM OTHERS?
- IF SOMEONE ELSE LIVED YOUR LIFE WOULD THEY MAKE THE SAME CHOICES AS YOU?

**I.**

- THIS LIFE IS FILLED WITH NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO BOTH FAIL & SUCCEED.
- BUT WHAT IF WE HAVE THE WRONG PERSPECTIVE/DEFINITION OF FAILURE & SUCCESS?
- WHAT IF WE VIEWED LESS THAN PERFECT SITUATIONS/OUTCOMES AS BEING NOTHING MORE THAN A DRAFTED VERSION, OR A SINGLE PART OF A LARGER STORY & NOT THE WHOLE STORY IN AND OF ITSELF?
- WHAT IF WE COULD WRITE A DIFFERENT VERSION OR ENDING TO THE OVERALL STORY SO THAT WHEN IT'S READ BY OTHERS WE WOULD NOT ONLY BE PROUD OF ITS MAIN MESSAGE BUT WE WOULD HELP OTHERS COMPLETE THEIR OWN UNIQUE STORY?

**II.**

- **READ JOHN 13:1.**
  - A. JESUS LOVED – HIS DISCIPLES TO THE END, EVEN THOUGH:
    1. ONE WOULD BETRAY HIM, YET JESUS DID NOT LOSE SITE OF ALL THE OTHERS.
    2. ANOTHER WOULD DENY HIM, YET JESUS DID NOT HOLD THIS AGAINST HIM/THEM.
    3. ALL WOULD DESERT HIM FOR A TIME, YET JESUS DID NOT GIVE UP ON HIS MISSION.
- **READ JOHN 13:2-5.**
  - A. JESUS SERVED - ... EVEN THOUGH:
    1. SOMEONE ELSE WOULD NORMALLY DO IT.
    2. NOONE ELSE OFFERED TO HELP.
- **READ JOHN 13:6-10**
  - A. JESUS GAVE -
    1. FORGIVENESS, PEACE, CLARITY; OR REASON TO BE CLEANED.
    2. HOPE, LIFE, FELLOWSHIP; OR FURTHER ABILITY TO BE FREE.
- **READ JOHN 13:11-17**
  - A. JESUS COMMISSIONED US TO DO LIKEWISE. TO BE PEOPLE WHO LOVE & SERVE OTHERS.

### III.

- DOES THE WAY JESUS LIVED CHALLENGE US TO RE-THINK THE WAY WE LIVE?
- DOES THE LIFE OF JESUS HELP US SEE THAT WE HAVE BEEN TOO ABSORBED WITH OUR OWN JOURNEY AND PURSUIT OF SUCCESS/
- DOES THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS WASHING HIS DISCIPLES FEET HELP EXPOSE THE NEED FOR CHRIST WITHIN OUR OWN LIVES?

### CLOSE

- KNOW THAT CHRIST JESUS WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. AND, THAT OUR PROBLEMS ARE NOT MEANT TO DESTROY US, BUT ARE TO HELP TEACH US TO RELY UPON HIM.
- BEGIN TO SEE THAT PROBLEMS IN LIFE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO LEARN & GROW, AND ARE THERE TO HELP US NOT ONLY SEE OUR NEED FOR JESUS BUT HIS PLAN FOR US TO HELP OTHERS.
- GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, AND LOOK FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE USE OF YOUR RESOURCES/SKILLS/TALENTS.
- OPEN UP TO OTHERS - BUT FIRST, RELEASE THE WEIGHT OF THIS LIFE. LEAN INTO CHRIST JESUS, AND ALLOW HIM TO HELP YOU EXPERIENCE A GREATER LIFE WITH HIM STARTING RIGHT NOW. INVITE HIM TO LEAD YOU AND SHAPE YOU IN THE DAYS TO COME.
- YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED. THERE IS REAL FREEDOM & FELLOWSHIP WHEN YOU JOIN TOGETHER WITH CHRIST JESUS.
- THANK HIM FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE MADE STRONGER, FOR HIS PATIENCE, HIS LOVE, HIS GRACE, HIS MERCY, ETC.

### **2 COR. 12:9, 10 – HERE, WE SEE THE APOSTLE PAUL ACCEPTING LIFE'S CHALLENGES**

*EACH TIME HE SAID, "MY GRACE IS ALL YOU NEED. MY POWER WORKS BEST IN WEAKNESS." SO NOW I AM GLAD TO BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST CAN WORK THROUGH ME. THAT'S WHY I TAKE PLEASURE IN MY WEAKNESSES AND IN THE INSULTS, HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS, AND TROUBLES THAT I SUFFER FOR CHRIST. FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.*

### **JOHN 10:10 – HERE, WE SEE THE DISCIPLE NAMED JOHN QUOTING THE WORDS OF JESUS.**

*"THE THIEF'S PURPOSE IS TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY. MY PURPOSE IS TO GIVE THEM A RICH AND SATISFYING LIFE."*