

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – September 2009

“TRUE SERVICE”

The cross is a sign of submission. The towel is a sign of service. In John 13, Jesus removes his outer garments and stoops to wash the feet of his disciples—including Judas Iscariot, who would betray him. You would think that dying on the cross would be enough proof of the humbleness of Christ and his submission to the Father’s will. Yet, “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded” (John 13:3-5, NKJV). After this humble act of service and care for his disciples, Jesus says, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:12b-17, NKJV).

Service enables us to say “no” to the world’s games of promotion and authority. The point is not to do away with all sense of leadership or authority. Jesus redefined leadership and rearranged the lines of authority. He showed authority of function instead of status. We are not to lord over one another but to serve one another. Are you serving the Lord? Are you willing to serve? Our church needs people with the servant attitude that Jesus modeled. But volunteer for true service, not self-righteous service, which is based on human effort.

True service comes from the heart and follows the divine whisperings and urgings of the Holy Spirit. Self-righteous service is concerned with impressive gains or measureable results and external awards and recognition. True service does not distinguish between small and large service, delights in the service itself—not the results—and is willing to be unrecognized. Self-righteous service picks and chooses whom to serve. True service is willing to help anyone at any time. A true servant ministers faithfully because there is a need whether one “feels” like serving or not. True service is a lifestyle that springs spontaneously to meet human need.

Please pray fervently for more servant leaders to step up and be obedient to God’s call to serve in the church this coming year. Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church—and you Lord.