**What We Must Know To Be A *True Servant***

**John 13:1-17**

Bro. Darrell Shaw spoke passionately about *service* and being *servant* this morning in the adult bible class**.** His words caused me to think about retitling some material I’ve begun writing on (the formerly titled) “Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses” and am now considering “Lessons on Leadership from Moses’ Life of Service.”

I’m not doing this lesson tonight to correct anything from that class, or in some sort of effort to cover points that he didn’t. Instead, I’d like share some things from a great text on *serving,* John 13:1-17.

Reread the text with me. Now, consider this question:

**What did John indicate as the reason Jesus was able to humble Himself, and perform this act of service** (and all the others of His life for that matter)**?**

Here’s the problem. We may *know* that God expects us to be “servants,” and therefore understand that we *need* to be “servants.” We may even, because of these things, *want* to “serve.” But we may not know exactly how to become such. What enables this *mind* and *heart* and *life* of “service”? I wouldn’t know where to begin to answer this question *of myself-* would you? Fortunately, John tells us **four specific things that Jesus *knew* which I think enabled Him to be such a *servant:*** (these are in addition to *knowing:* that if the  *the Lord* and *Teacher served,* we can too*,* vv.14-15; that He *left us an example to follow,* v.15; and, that we *slaves* are not *better than the Master* in these regards, vv.16-17)

* v.1, that *His hour had come to depart and go to the Father;*
* v.3a, that the Father had *given all things into His hands;*
* v.3b, that He had *come forth from God;* and,
* v.3c, that He was *going back to God.*

How do these things that **Jesus** knew help me/you to have the *heart of humility* and *serve,* v.15*?*  Consider, that to be a *true servant* after the example of Jesus (v.16), we must:

1. **Know that we, too, will have a time to *depart and go to the Father*, but we won’t know when it will be!**

So, know the importance of being a *servant* ***now-* while there is opportunity*,*** Matt.25:1-13; 1Thess.5:2.

1. **Know that we, too, have had *all things given into our hands.*** This is true in at least a couple of important ways:
   1. God has given us all the ***tools*** we need for service, 2Pet.1:3; 2Tim.3:16-17; John 13:15;
   2. He has also graciously given us ***the ability to choose whom we will serve,*** Rom.6:16,19-23. It’s aka “free moral agency.” God does not demand that anyone serve *Him, the gospel,* and *his fellowman-* we get to choose. Choose wisely to *selflessly* serveGod rather than *self* and *sin!*
2. **Know that we, too, *have come forth from God.*** We all *came forth* from God, Eccl.12:7. Jesus clearly knew this, Luke 23:46; as did Stephen, Acts 7:59; and we should too. Knowing from *Whom* we came, from *Whom* we originate, should help our humility, and our ability to serve! None of us are *self-made,* Heb.3:4; and none should, therefore, be *self-serving,* 1Cor.12:12-25; Gal.5:13.
3. **Know that we, too, will *go back to the Father.*** Jesus did so in glorious victory over life, death, Satan, and Self (His humanity). We will also *return to the Father,* but for judgment, 2Cor.5:10. That judgment will be, among other things, based upon our willingness to *humble ourselves,* and *serve others rather than self* after the example of Jesus, Phil.2:1-11; 12-18.

Therefore, to be a *true servant* after the example of Jesus, we must *know* the things He *knew:*

1. The *time* of our departure (which is always *at hand,* but is otherwise *unknown!*);
2. God has given us the ability to *choose,* and that we should therefore *choose* to be a selfless servant (contrarßy to popular belief, you aren’t *born with it,* you *learn* and *develop* it);
3. Our *Divine Parentage,* Luke 2:49 (marginal NASV, *“affairs”* or *“about My Father’s business,”* KJV); He’s *our Father* too, and we had better be *serving His interests/business* rather than just our own;
4. *Accountability,* 2Cor.5:10; Matt.25:40,45.