

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: **“Thinking Like a Servant”**
DAY ONE: **“Servants Think More About Others Than
Themselves”**

Read: Philippians 2:1-11 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1366)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 265-266

Reflect: How self-absorbed are you? Critically evaluate how much time you spend worrying what others think of you and working to meet your own needs/desires. Now evaluate how much time you spend investing in others. Which one wins out?

Dig: Does this scripture passage suggest we should give no thought to ourselves? See Philippians 2:4.

Verse 5 says, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” From the insights given in verses 6-8, what words would you use to describe the attitude of Jesus?

How does this compare to your attitude?

Read Isaiah 58: 9b-10 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 815) and note the type of actions that such an attitude produces. Note particularly the verbs.

Apply: Put into practice the words of Romans 12:1-2 (Msg): “¹So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. ²Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: “Thinking Like a Servant”
**DAY TWO: “Servants Think Like Stewards, Not Owners” &
“Servants Think About Their Work—Not What
Others Are Doing”**

Read: Matthew 25:14-30 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1113)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, bottom of p. 266 to top of p. 269

Reflect: What gifts, talents, material possessions, and circumstances has God entrusted to you?

Dig: In the parable in Matthew 25:14-30, who do the talents belong to? See verses 20, 22, and particularly verse 25.

Often we think of sins as being things we do, say, or think. What sin was committed by the third servant in this parable?

There is often the tendency to compare our talents (and gifts, possessions, heritage, etc.) with what others have been given. What does 1 Peter 4:10 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1454) have to say about this?

Apply: Luke 12:48 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1177) says, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Evaluate how you’re doing with what you’ve been entrusted with.

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: “Thinking Like a Servant”
DAY THREE: “Servants Base Their Identity in Christ”

Read: John 13:1-5 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1220)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 269-270

Reflect: Rick Warren writes on page 269, “The more insecure you are, the more you will want people to serve you, and the more you will need their approval.” How secure are you? How does this affect how well you serve?

Dig: What prompted Jesus’ service? See John 13:1.

What was the source of Jesus’ security? (verse 3)

As part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, Jesus shows how he fulfills the Law by bringing to it a servant’s heart. Note how that chapter is concluded in verse 48: “In a word, what I’m saying is, grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” (Msg)

Apply: Remind yourself of your identity in Christ by reading page 1199 in the *Freedom in Christ Bible*.

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: “Thinking Like a Servant”
DAY FOUR: “Servants Think of Ministry As an Opportunity, Not an Obligation”

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1337)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 270

Reflect: In what ways (time, money, gifts, etc.) has God equipped you to give?

Dig: The subtitle to 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 in the NIV is “Sowing Generously.” Based on the context (v. 1-5) what is being sown?

Can you see how verses 9-15 could also be applied to giving of other resources? See verse 8.

Note what verse 7 says about the *attitude* of giving. Why should this matter?

From verses 8 and 10, list five things that can happen as a result of giving.

Apply: Prayerfully consider ways in which you can sow generously today.

WEEK THIRTY-FOUR: “Thinking Like a Servant”
DAY FIVE: Lectio Divina

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 2 of this booklet), meditate on this scripture:

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- ♦ *reading*: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- ♦ *meditation*: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- ♦ *prayer*: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility, and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.