

January 23, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

Dreams & Goals

"Dreams become Goals and goals have plans that make them become reality..."

Take me home!

God 1st Others 2nd The Art of Servant Leadership!



GO FOR IT

A True Leader Serves...

Take a look at this, right before Jesus was going to be betrayed and nailed on a cross, he had dinner with His disciples. That sounds great doesn't it spending time with the people that you love the most before the end comes. However you may be shocked to know that during this time before dinner was served He washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus the Son of God washing the feet of His disciples, is the greatest form of leadership ever shown to man. Let's look at the story for John 13: 2-5 & 12-17 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

12 When he 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. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have

done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Wow that is awesome, the Son of God washing your feet. I mean we all sort of get the great mission to take on the world's sin and defeat the thief but to wash our feet. That is pretty awesome step to go to, so that the world would know what it means to be a servant leader. We have been looking at the concept that we are third, God is first and others are second and well we are third. Powerful stuff, for us to grapple with especially when the world tells us that we are supposed to think pretty highly of ourselves. Tonight we are looking at servant leadership, and the fact that we are to love others and show them who Jesus is by being Jesus. Jesus lead people to the truth by being a servant. You can't be a servant to others if you are always trying to take care of yourself first. Serving others and putting their needs first is a big thing and it makes the world a different place especially for the people that encounter us. So dig into this Extreme Faith Mag. and process what it is going to take for you to learn the concepts of being third. It is a great way to live and when you live that way you will lead like never before!



The challenge...

How do you serve others? Do you serve others? We all like to be served and taken care of. But who do you take care of? See as followers of Jesus we are to lead others to Jesus by being Jesus and Jesus cared for others and He served them. When we put God first you can beat that your needs will be met because God is not going to let you sink. So if we know that God is going to meet our needs then what else do we have to do but to serve others. Serving others is not being their slave, cause Jesus was no one's slave. Serving others is thinking of them before we think of ourselves. Putting others before ourselves is leading, and caring for the people around you. I challenge you to go through a day just thinking of other people's needs before you think of your own needs. It is pretty cool and I promise you that you will like it. It is way cooler than just thinking about yourself all the time.

Real Life Heroes

Angie's
"Story of Devotion"

Angie's a normal kid with an "abnormal" trait. She's extremely devoted. The youngest of twelve children, she lived in Russia most of her life, but the family moved to the United States almost three years ago. In Russia, she had lots of friends. She went to church. And even though the country was Communist, her teacher let her bring her New Testament to class. She was able to talk to her spiritually hungry friends about Jesus. What makes Angie so devoted? How could you see this trait in her life? Ever since making the move from Russia, Angie's family has been sending money to friends and family still living there. The recipients use the money to pay bills and buy food; otherwise, they would often go hungry. That's devotion, right? Here's another one. In school, friendships are everything. And when you're a student from another country, you want to do whatever you can to fit in. Every move you make can tend to be calculated and thought out—just to make sure you're doing things continued on page 2



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CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

Look around you everyone has needs, and everyone needs something to help them on their way. Extreme character starts when you say I will help! I will serve and when I serve I will think of others before I think of myself. You have to free yourself of yourself to serve others. That is extreme character.

Think About it The tension of

(putting others before us)

What's in it for you? That is one of the biggest tensions in serving others. Everybody thinks everybody is just looking out for themselves and that people only do good things to help themselves. There has to be something in it for you right? But that is not the truth when we serve others it is the person we are serving who is blessed. Many people will not want to take the help that we offer them because they think that there is an angle that we are working to get something for ourselves. So as we try to go and help people and think of others before ourselves we might find some resistance and questions. Especially if this is not how we have lived in the past. We have to show them that this new way of living is the best way and it is who we are. Over time they will trust us and believe that we are not working some angle, but that we really do want to think of others first.

Trust me in the long run you will find that this is the only way to live and the only way to lead.

What would change in your home if you thought of your parents and siblings before you thought of yourself? I challenge you to try it. At first everybody might be holding their breath waiting to see what you are going to be asking for from them because you are being so nice. But the surprise comes when you don't ask for anything, when they just learn to know that you are choosing to live third. Over time everybody will catch on and hopefully they will begin to live as thirds too. But if they don't it doesn't matter, cause you are living the way that is best. You are living as Jesus lived thinking of others first and serving all that you can serve. Trusting that God will meet all of your needs.

There is no better way to live than the way God calls us to live. Every other way of living is well not as great as the way God calls us to live!

Be Third and live with extreme passion!



DIG IN

John 13:1-5 1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

1. Finish this sentence: When my mom or dad asks me to help around the house, I

2. What's the messiest job or chore you've ever done?

3. What was the most difficult job or chore you ever did?

4. Read John 13:1-5. What do you think verse 3 means?

5. Read what Jesus said in verses 13-17. Rewrite it into a single sentence:

13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

6. If you were a teacher and had to give yourself a grade on your willingness to serve others, what grade would you get? Explain your reasons.

7. Write down the name of someone you think God may want you to serve this week. What can you do to help that person in a way that means a lot?

8. Take a look at this verse: How are you living it out?

Philippians 2: 1-5 1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others

Real Life Heroes

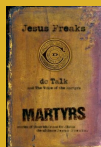
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that make you someone who will fit in. Angie holds devotion to others above the daily struggle to fit in. In school she befriended another girl who, through the regular politics of school life, became an outcast. This person lost her friends. And those who knew this girl were "encouraged" to ignore her.

Did Angie do that? Nope. She stuck by her friend. She risked her popularity and her other friendships to stick by her friend. Her devotion took over. Extreme devotion. It's fashioned from watching parents who still care about their starving friends in Russia. It's uncontrollably lived out before others. Angie teaches us a great lesson about devotion. No matter what others might say about you, no matter what you might lose, sticking by people because you've committed to do it is worth more than what you might lose. The gain in devotion is more precious than what you might lose. Devotion. It's something a lot of us could stand to have a little more of. It's something Angie's life helps us understand.

That's extreme devotion.

Featured Story from
the book
Jesus Freaks dc Talk
and the voice of the
Martyrs



GOD FIRST:

MATTHEW 22:37 JESUS REPLIED:“ ‘LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. ’ 38 THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT.

**PUT GOD FIRST AND TRUST IN HIM TO MEET ALL OF YOUR NEEDS!
TRUST IN HIM WITH EVERYTHING!**

OTHERS SECOND

MATTHEW 22: 39 AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT:‘LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

PHILIPPIANS 2: 1-5 1 SO IF THERE IS ANY ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHRIST, ANY COMFORT FROM LOVE, ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE SPIRIT, ANY AFFECTION AND SYMPATHY, 2 COMPLETE MY JOY BY BEING OF THE SAME MIND, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING IN FULL ACCORD AND OF ONE MIND. 3 DO NOTHING FROM SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT, BUT IN HUMILITY COUNT OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN YOURSELVES. 4 LET EACH OF YOU LOOK NOT ONLY TO HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO TO THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

THINK OF OTHERS BEFORE YOU THINK OF YOURSELF! LIVE WITH A SERVANT HEART AND TRUST GOD NO MATTER WHAT!

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

[illegible]

Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

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