

# Godly Servanthood

## John 13:13-16

### **John 13:13-16 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup>“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for *so* I am.”

<sup>14</sup>“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”

<sup>15</sup>“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

<sup>16</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.”

When you hear the word *servant*, does anybody immediately spring to your mind? Perhaps you recall an extraordinarily helpful salesman or that wonderful woman at church who always takes care of every detail.

Godly servants are all around us, but sadly, we often take them for granted. This is a tragedy that we need to correct—not only for their sakes, but for our own as well. You see, I firmly believe that the faithful service of righteous men and women will bring untold blessings to those whom they serve.

For instance, Joseph's story reveals a consistent thread: Wherever he was, the people he served prospered. Potiphar was certainly not a God-fearing man, yet even he recognized that prosperity came to him because of his slave ([Genesis 39:2-6](#)).

### **Genesis 39:2-6 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup>“The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

<sup>3</sup>Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

<sup>5</sup>It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD'S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.

<sup>6</sup>So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him *there* he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.”

A second Old Testament illustration is Daniel, whose service to Babylonian kings included interpreting visions. (See [Daniel 2](#), [Daniel 4](#), [Daniel 5](#).)

In both examples, powerful leaders were blessed by the actions of their servants; and more than that, they came away with an awareness of the living God. They also participated in the young men's success by offering them increased responsibilities and greater opportunities to serve ([Genesis 39:1-6](#); [Daniel 2:46-48](#); [Daniel 5:29](#)).

**Genesis 39:1-6 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

<sup>3</sup>Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

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<sup>6</sup>So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him *there* he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.”

**Daniel 2:46-48 (NASB)**

<sup>46</sup>“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense.

<sup>47</sup>The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

<sup>48</sup>Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.”

**Daniel 5:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup>“Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.”

Find the people in your life who have the gift of godly service. Spend time with them, serving and working together for God’s glory. If you turn your nose up at someone doing “**servant’s work,**” you’ll cut yourself off from a relationship that could change your life. Instead, run toward these people, stand beside them, and ask, “**How can I participate in serving with you?**”