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The Influence of Service

Service is how the world goes on. I strongly believe we were all made for service to each other. The Bible says, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NLT). This shows that Jesus himself lived his life to serve others, and therefore we should do the same. Jesus is the son of God who created everything, yet He still chose to humble himself everyday and be a servant to others. Most of all, he served us by sacrificing his life for the sake of each of us. In his day-to-day life, He served by spreading the Good News first and foremost to save their souls, but his message was evident from the way he treated people.

Jesus healed people physically- giving the blind the ability to see, healing leprosy, and others. In comparison, He also served by literally washing the dirt off the feet of his friends. Serving isn't defined just by what we do, but also by the intent we do it with. Jesus healed people to make their lives better, both physically and spiritually. He used his miracles to show He truly was the Son of God and bring people into relationship with God. He did not have selfish intentions in the way He served at all. His only thought behind serving was how to show the love of God to the people around him.

This is apparent from the fact that He took the lowest job possible when He washed his disciples' feet. He's a perfect example of putting others before ourselves that we should constantly try to live up to. Our intention behind serving should never be to feel like a good

person or to seem righteous, but rather to make a positive difference in someone's life and to display the love that God first showed up.

The positive difference we make through service could be exactly what someone needs. Similarly to the Golden Rule, what we do for someone in need-financially, emotionally, or spiritually- might be exactly what we need ourselves in the future. In order for life to go on, someone needs to fulfill the role of helping the one who's in need of it. At one point in our lives, we'll be the person being helped. At another point, there will be opportunities for us to help someone else. If everyone made the choice to not help others, our world would be in a sorry state. There are countless charities that aren't on most people's radars that do everything in their power to support the people they serve; these charities are invaluable and rely solely on people's choices to invest and believe in their mission. Our choice to serve is abundantly important, even if we don't always think so. Service can be done in millions of ways- showing up and caring for someone, being a listening ear, or giving someone a place to stay, and each one has huge impact.

Any form of service changes the way we think. It gives us a chance to be part of something bigger than ourselves and to help someone else with their problems, despite our own. There's so much joy derived from making someone's day or life better, and it can often help us put our own problems to the side. Service and following the model of Jesus gives us purpose and joy in each day we get up.