

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 26)

THE SERVANT PRINCIPLE (CONTINUED). “ (Jesus) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him form of a servant...” (Philippians 2:7 KJV). The word for “servant” in this passage is “doulos.” W. E. Vine explains that it is an adjective signifying “in bondage,” and it is used as a noun. The NKJV translates the word “bondservant.” According to Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary, the term refers to the lowest status on the social ladder...the exact opposite of the term “Lord.” What the disciples desired Jesus gave up, when He left Heaven to become a citizen of earth. Jesus gave up the crown and took up the cross. If Jesus, was willing to leave His own glory in Heaven for us, we should be willing to leave the glory of this world for Him. That is nothing less than radical. Radical disciples forfeit the success of this world to be a slave to Christ. A slave has no rights of his own. Jesus set aside His rights for the cross. Radical disciples set aside the right to pursue greatness to serve the Son of Man who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus is the disciple’s model for serving. Being a disciple of Jesus requires a different meaning of greatness. MacDonald said, “The whole purpose of the Incarnation can be summed up in two words – serve and give.” Likewise, the whole purpose of being a disciple is to serve and give. Jesus said, “The disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). If we desire be radical disciples, we will seek to be like Jesus.