

Characteristics of the Servants

Introduction

- John 13: 1-20
- Mk 10: 35-45
- Lk 5: 17-26
- Mt 19: 13-15
- Mt 25: 14-30

Characteristics of the Servants

- 1- Love of God and the service.**
- 2- Humility.**
- 3- Self-denial and Sacrifice.**
- 4- Action, not just words.**
- 5- Obedience.**
- 6- Responsibility and reliability.**
- 7- Spiritual Maturity.**

1- Love of God and the Service

- The most important characteristic of a servant is that he/she knows and loves God, and is continually striving to know God better.
- Jesus washing his disciples' feet.
- Jesus dying on the cross for us is the Ultimate example of Love.

2- Humility

- Humility is the foundation of service.
- Lack of humility presents a stumbling block for any service.
- Jesus washing His disciples feet (Jn 13:1-20)
- James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Mk 10:35-45)



2- Humility

- To be humble in the service, we must remember the following:
 - “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all” (Mk 10: 43, 44)
 - “So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the increase.” (1Co 3: 7)
 - “They have all fallen away, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one” (Ps 53)
 - “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (1Pt 5: 6)

3- Self denial and Sacrifice

- “ No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Wealth “ (Mt 7: 24)
- There will be times in our service where we need to choose between our “wealth” and our service.
- “ Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age and in the age to come eternal life.” (Mk 10: 29-30)

4- Action, not just words

- The paralytic and the 4 men (Lk 5: 17-26)
- Peter and John heal the lame man at the temple: “ I have no silver or gold but what I have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk...” (Act 3: 6)

5- Obedience

- Like humility, Obedience is one of the foundations of the service.
- Obedience and humility are closely related. The humble servant is obedient, whereas when we lack humility, we also lack obedience.
- A servant must be obedient and respect the hierarchy and order laid down by the church.
- The tree of obedience...St. John the Short.
- “ ...You who are younger must accept the authority of those who are older,..” (1Pt 5: 5)

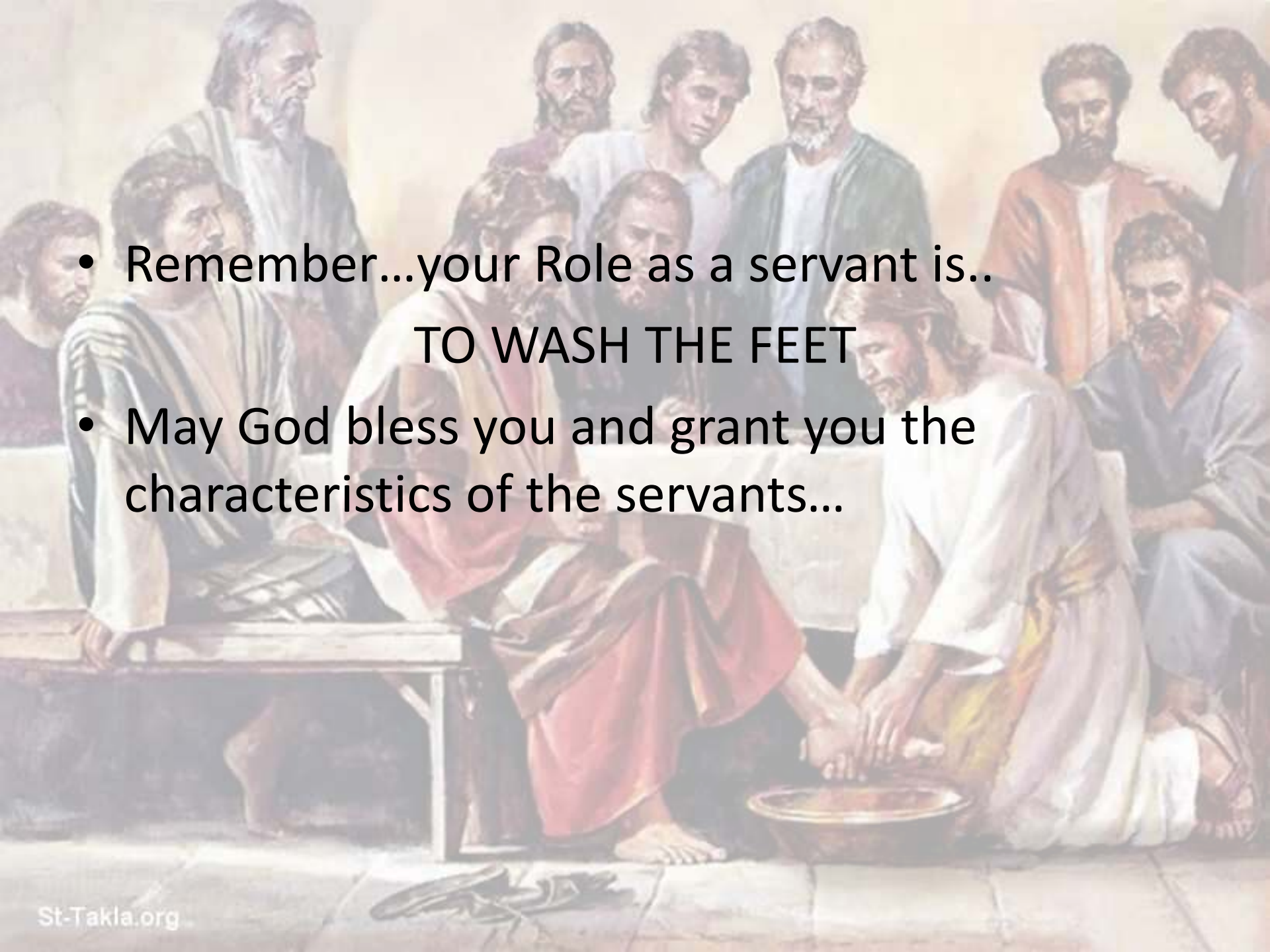
6- Responsibility and Reliability

- The parable of the talents: Mt 25: 14-30
- “Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes.” (Lk 12: 35)

A religious painting depicting Jesus surrounded by his disciples and children. In the foreground, a blind beggar (Bartimaeus) is kneeling and reaching out towards Jesus. Jesus is seated in the center, looking down at the beggar. Several disciples and children are gathered around them, some looking on with interest. The scene is set outdoors with a simple background.

7- Spiritual Maturity

- Jesus, the disciples and the children. (Mt 19: 13-15)
- Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. (Mk 10: 46- 52)
- “ for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish between good and evil. “ (Heb 6: 12)

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- Remember...your Role as a servant is..
TO WASH THE FEET
 - May God bless you and grant you the characteristics of the servants...