

The Challenger

Ministerial Staff

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Volume 56

August 2021

NO. 8

“Jesus is my _____.”

This was a blank I asked the youth to fill during our small group devotion time at camp. They gave some great answers that should make all the youth's parents proud: “Master,” “Lord,” “Savior,” “Comforter,” “Counselor,” “Friend,” “My Everything.” You can imagine how their eyes got wide, however, when I asked, “Why did no one say ‘Jesus is my slave’?”

What? When Jesus put a towel around his waist to wash the disciples' feet, what was He doing? He wasn't only giving an example for them to follow; He was also putting on display His self-appointed role – that of the lowest of the lowliest slaves in God's household Whose eternal job is to serve absolutely everyone.

Okay, it's a head scratcher for me, too, because I simply don't understand God's heavenly economy. I don't get how the Person Whose name is exalted above all names can be the servant (same Greek word as the word for slave in the New Testament - doulos) of all. I can't grasp how a Master Who demands my complete unhindered obedience can make Himself a slave to my every need. Why was this so hard of a concept for me and the youth to comprehend?

In our small group time, we narrowed it down to three reasons. 1) No matter how many times we hear lessons taught that the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is the servant, we don't really believe it. Our fallen natures still think that a ruler lording his authority over others is the logical protocol to pursue if he's going to exalt himself properly in his position. Jesus sitting in glorious power on His throne issuing orders sits easier with our ideas of a King than the image of a King scurrying around in a towel washing everyone's feet! 2) Our pride doesn't particularly like the idea that we need Him to continue serving us. We prefer thinking, “Okay, Jesus, You served me, now it's my turn!” As if we were two wealthy businessmen meeting for dinner and it's our turn to pay the check. That's an easier concept on our pride than the fact that in actuality, He comes to the table as the only wealthy businessman while we remain the needy helpless beggars who can't lift our forks or even breathe on our own without His grace and mercy continually keeping us alive! In other words, any good works we accomplish for Him as His servants are provided by Him and empowered by Him, making it extremely difficult to get ahead or even catch up in crawling out of our indebtedness to Him, and we don't like that. 3) Once we finally come to grips with how Jesus relates to us as our slave, we shudder when we hear Him say to serve others the same way – forever!

As a parting shot, I asked the youth, “How would you define heavenly rewards? You spend your life serving Jesus and others the way you should, what do you get?” One student answered, “More responsibility and authority.” Another said, “We get the opportunity to serve even more.” At the heart of our message is the difficult truth that they were both right. If we're going to follow Jesus the way we're supposed to, He'll make our names great, He'll increase our influence. But in doing so, He'll plunge us further down on the food chain, move us further to the back of the line. He showed us how by insisting on standing further back than we are. He's that kind of a Master. Am I that kind of follower?

In His Grip,
Pastor Fred Harris

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411 N. Warren Ave.
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Food Box Distribution is on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month 3-5 PM. This is a FREE service to anyone who needs it sponsored by The Most Excellent Way Bible Study



Sunday August 15th 5:00-7:00 PM
Pool Party and BBQ – Outdoor Pool
 Food Provided – Side dishes/desserts appreciated!
 (No Evening Bible Study)



Quarterly Update – Business Meeting – 5th Sunday Potluck August 29th immediately following the Morning Worship Service. (No Evening Bible Study)

First Baptist is partnering with Free Life Ministries biblical counseling services. It is a private online service that we're making available for anyone who feels they need some extra biblical guidance and comfort.



Family Bible Connection is starting up again August 18th! Wednesday nights 6-7PM in the Activity Center

Senior Adult Luncheon/Potluck Friday, 08/20, at 11:30 AM in the Activity Center



MEN'S BREAKFAST
Saturday, Aug. 14th at 8:00 AM
Activity Center

Ken & Sandy Light's 50th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, August 7th, 2:00-4:00pm - Open House
Hubbell Trading Post
523 W Second St.
(No gifts please)

Mark your calendar!!

- 08/01 6:00 PM Evening Bible Study
- 08/02 6:00 PM Men's Potluck/Bible Study
- 08/03 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 08/03 9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 08/03 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 08/04 6:00 PM Before God's Throne Bible Study – Rm 103A
- 08/04 6:00 PM Youth Night
- 08/05 6:00 PM Most Excellent Way
- 08/06 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 08/07 2:00 PM Ken & Sandy Light's Anniversary Open House
- 08/08 3:00 PM Deacon's Meeting
- 08/08 6:00 PM Evening Bible Study
- 08/09 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 08/10 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 08/10 9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 08/10 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 08/11 6:00 PM Before God's Throne Bible Study – Rm 103A
- 08/11 6:00 PM Youth Night
- 08/12 3:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 08/12 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 08/12 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting
- 08/13 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 08/14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 08/15 5:00 PM Pool Party/BBQ – Outdoor Pool
- 08/15 **NO** Evening Bible Study
- 08/16 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 08/17 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 08/17 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 08/17 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 08/18 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection – Activity Center
- 08/18 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 08/19 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 08/20 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 08/20 11:30 AM Senior Adult Potluck/Luncheon Activity Center
- 08/22 6:00 PM Bible Study - Sanctuary
- 08/23 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 08/24 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 08/24 9:15 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 08/24 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 08/25 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection – Activity Center
- 08/25 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 08/26 3:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 08/26 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 08/27 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 08/29 12:00 PM Quarterly Update/Business Meeting/Potluck immediately following Morning Worship
- 08/30 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 08/31 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 08/31 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 08/31 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center

