

A Snapshot of Five Servants

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Although he already had my full attention, I could hear in my spirit Yeshua call to me by name. My name, Christi, means “like Christ, the anointed one” in Greek. I’ve come to realize that when Yeshua says my name, he’s getting ready to tell me something transformative, to continue transforming me into his image, more like him.

That morning it was servanthood. He has called me his servant, and this is one more tool he wanted me to have. He showed me five servants and asked me what they had in common. Then he asked what each one was known for. The whole lesson took 30 minutes to write, but will serve me for a lifetime in my transformation into his image.

I wondered why I would need this snapshot of servanthood when there are whole books on the subject. And as I asked the question, the answer was already on my tongue: because you can remember a snapshot. All I have to do is remember the five names he gave me, and all the rest comes to mind automatically. I can easily refer to them as my examples, as well as test my own progress into servanthood against this snapshot. I recommend this way of “bundling” for topics you want to remember and meditate on. Here’s the snapshot he gave me on Servanthood.

Eleazar, Moses, Ruth, Paul, Yeshua

As I looked at each of these people, it was easy to see what they all had in common. Each of these:

1. Were obedient – precisely
2. Went from a higher position through grief and/or loss before they were called
3. Were humble and walked in humility instead of trying to get their position back
4. Took on the will and heart of their master beyond just obeying the instructions
5. Had to do things they didn’t want to do or that were difficult for them to do
6. Gave up their own life and agenda
7. Lived their life to fulfill someone else’s purposes

How am I doing with those seven qualities?

Looking at each one’s attitude individually, we see that there was something that defined them more distinctly, something they excelled at in their roles as servants.

Eleazar

... Abraham’s servant charged with finding Isaac’s wife prayed to Yehovah for instruction in carrying out his master’s will.

Genesis 24:12: “And he said, ‘O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.’”

Eleazar took on his master’s instructions with his whole heart to make sure he did not just as Abraham wanted, but as Yehovah wanted. He understood the significance of his role, and he took great pains to accomplish the will and desire of his Master.

Moses

... Humbled himself in front of the people and the Lord over and over during their journey through the wilderness.

Numbers 12:3: “Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.”

In Numbers alone, it records Moses falling on his face before the Lord five times. This humility is the reason Yehovah could trust Moses to lead the people exactly as he instructed. He was given an assignment that was beyond his skill level, so that he would be dependent on Yehovah and not depend on his own ability.

Ruth

... The daughter-in-law of Naomi, volunteered herself to be a servant even though she could have returned to her own family and people.

Ruth 1:16: "Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people,"

Ruth 3:5: "All that you say to me I will do."

Obedience was Ruth's voluntary commitment. That is the kind of heart Yehovah is looking for.

Paul

... Considered himself nothing more than a servant.

Romans 1:1: "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God."

... Gave up his high standing and his regard for anything else.

Galatians 6:14: "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

... Would have given his own salvation if he could have.

Romans 9:3: "For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people,"

Yeshua

But, by far and away, Yeshua is our ultimate example of a servant.

... Gave up his human willpower.

John 5:19-20 "So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing."

Luke 22:42: "Not my will, but thine be done."

... Gave up his power, deity, glory, rights and his life.

Philippians 2: 5-9: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name."

In my own pursuit as His servant, this verse took me to Isaiah 6:5, in which Isaiah sees Yehovah on his throne and feels completely undone, unworthy to carry his message or be his servant:

"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

That's how I feel when I look at Yeshua as my example of servanthood -- undone, unworthy.

But in verses 6-7, Isaiah is made clean for service to Yehovah:

"Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.'

Praise Yehovah, for in his unfailing love he redeems us for his service!

"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35b