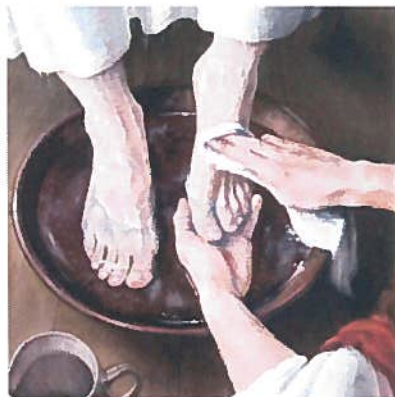
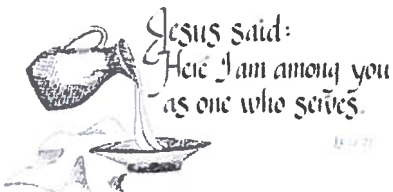


## THE SPIRIT OF SERVANTHOOD

“Service for the kingdom doesn’t consist of what you do or what you give; it depends on who you are. When you give God control, he will give you ways to serve,” June Gunden.

One of the most memorable examples of serving is found in John 13:1-17 where it describes how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. After the supper, Jesus wrapped a towel around himself and began to wash the disciples’ feet. “Do you understand what I have done for you?...You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet” (John 13: 12-14 NIV). I think Jesus was telling us that besides just humbling ourselves to wait on someone, we should also help to support one another and lift each other up, acting in ways that will assist others in achieving life goals. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Sometimes I find myself in the story of Mary and Martha, as either person, when it comes to the subject of serving. “...Martha opened her home to him” (Luke 10:38). “Martha was distracted by all the preparations...” (Luke 10:40). Sometimes we get caught up in the serving – the doing; we forget the reason for our doing and whom we are serving. It wasn’t that Martha didn’t know what it was to enjoy the Master’s company, because we understand that Martha also sat at Jesus’ feet just as Mary did. I think the Lord gave her a gentle rebuke, “...you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed...” (Luke 10:41-42). Sometimes I just want to sit at the Master’s feet and take in all he has to say.



Of course, if it wasn't for all those who serve in the church, giving of their time and talents in various ways, the church would not be able to function. We might do well to follow Jesus' example of servanthood: "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51a). He saw the burden another carried and offered to help with the load. Whether the load a person carries is physical, emotional, or spiritual, we need to come along side and be ready to assist.

The spirit of Servanthood is a genuine concern for one another:

- When we serve others, we serve Jesus (Matthew 25:31-40).
- Paul depended on people to support him (Philippians 4:10-19).
- "...Whoever serves me must follow me..." (John 12:25-26).
- "...Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:1-4).

It's a good thing to teach our children about serving others when they are young, by giving small duties and responsibilities, like making their bed or setting the table or holding a door for someone, with the hope of teaching them to think of others first. Caring and serving parents often produce caring and serving children – "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6 NET).

As June Gunden says, "If he asks me to be a caring servant to someone and I obey, that is just the same to him as if he had called me to have a worldwide ministry and I obeyed."

Our Love for our Great God is what motivates us to serve wherever we are needed.

*Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated, UMH 399*

*Frances Havergal*

*Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be,  
swift and beautiful for thee.*