

# Matthew 12:14-21

## *God's Servant*

June 2, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Intro** - Robert Greenleaf: "*Good leaders must first be good servants.*"

**Matthew 20:28** - "The Son of Man didn't come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

**1 Cor. 4:1** - This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ.

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### **1. God's servant seeks peace.**

**v.14** - Then (*after Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath*) the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. But when Jesus knew it...

**v.15** - But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there.

**Acts 15:5** - Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said...

**Sean Whalen shared a picture on Facebook of three adults and five children. He wrote:** *This is my ex wife, her husband, our 3 kids and their 2 kids. Tonight they invited me over for dinner. [Five] years ago she and I had to have a police escort just to pick up and drop off our kids. We only communicated through lawyers. I wanted to punch her boyfriend (now her husband). Tonight we broke bread, laughed, played with the kids and had a great evening. Never give up, friends. PEACE is a choice. It's YOUR choice. Not THEIR choice.*

*"Yea but he does..."*

*"Yea but she does..."*

*What [they do] is IRRELEVANT.*

*YOU CHOOSE how and what you say.*

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*YOU CHOOSE* how and what you do.  
*Even when they're trying to fight with you.*  
*ESPECIALLY* when they're trying to fight with you.  
*CHOOSE to create PEACE by LIVING PEACEFULLY.*

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## **2. God's servant meets the needs of others.**

**v.15:** *"Great multitudes followed Him."*

**Acts 10:38** - **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth who went about doing good.**

**Someone said:** He just got up every day and did good. Everywhere He went, even though He had a purpose and He was headed somewhere, He let himself be interrupted by the needs of people. So often we study the steps of Jesus. Maybe we need to study the stops of Jesus. The things that He stopped for, the things that interrupted His plan, where He would alter His plan and help somebody.”

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## **3. God's servant doesn't promote self.**

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**Philippians 2:5-9** - Let this attitude be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, though He was God, didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant... He humbled Himself... Therefore, God has highly exalted Him...

**Jesus**: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

**J. Oswald Sanders**: *"The world has yet to see what could happen if everyone lost the desire to get the glory. Wouldn't it be a marvelous place if nobody cared who got the credit?"*

**Dave Stone** was the Youth Pastor at Shively Christian Church. Shively Christian was fiercely competitive with their neighbor, Shively Baptist. The 2 churches competed in everything—especially softball. One week, Pastor Stone was teaching a Bible lesson about Jesus washing His disciples' feet. To make the lesson stick, Pastor Stone divided the teens into groups. And he told them to go out and find a practical way to be servants. A few hours later, the groups returned to the church to share what they'd done:

- Group 1 performed two hours of yard work for an elderly man
- Group 2 bought ice cream and delivered it to several widows in the church
- Group 3 visited church members in the hospital
- Group 4 visited a nursing home
- Group 5 went to Shively Baptist. They asked the pastor if he knew of someone who needed help. The pastor sent them to the home of an elderly woman who needed yard work done. For two hours, they mowed grass, raked the yard, and trimmed the hedges. When they were getting ready to leave, the woman called the group together and thanked them. She said, *"I don't know how I could get along without you. You kids at Shively Baptist are always coming to my rescue."* Pastor Stone said, "I hope you set her straight and told her you were from Shively Christian Church." The teens responded, *"No. We didn't think it mattered who got the credit."*

#### **4. God's servant pleases their master.**

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v.17 - That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "Behold! *My Servant* whom I've chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is *well pleased!*"

John 5:30 - "I don't seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

John 8:29 - "I *always* do what pleases Him."

John 14:31 - "I love the Father and do *exactly* what My Father has commanded Me."

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### 5. God's servant doesn't quarrel.

A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, patient with difficult people, *gently instructing those who oppose the truth.* (2 Timothy 2:24-25)

James 3:17 - The wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, willing to yield to others and full of mercy.

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#### **6. God's servant comforts the weak.**

v.20 - A bruised reed He won't break, and a smoldering wick He won't snuff out.

Isaiah 40:29 - He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

- **He wants to fan the flickering flame**
  - **and bind up the broken hearted**
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#### **7. God's servant shares with others.**

In Jewish society the Gentiles were the outsiders.

v.18 - **He will declare justice to the Gentiles.**

v.21 - **In His name Gentiles will trust.**

**Charles Smith** was a Jehovah's Witness. He worked his way up in the organization for 37 years. Outside one of their meetings, he noticed someone with a sign that simply read: "1 John 5:13." He noticed the sign and decided he'd read the verse later.

So, he got out the Bible and read 1 John 5:13 - "*These things I've written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*" The verse shocked him, so he read it again to be sure he hadn't misread it the first time. "*These things I've written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*"

Jehovah's Witness theology doesn't teach that you can know you have eternal life. Smith was confused. He went to his superiors in the church and asked them about the verse. They told him, "Don't worry about it."

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But Smith couldn't stop worrying about it. He struggled with the verse and all of 1 John chapter 5 for a year. And finally he came to the realization that all a person has to do to have eternal life is to place their faith in Jesus Christ. And so that's what he did.

Smith says to this day, he doesn't know who the person was who held up that sign that day...

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