

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP

12•25•2025

MARK 10:45

Christmas is the season when we celebrate Jesus's birth: God himself taking on human flesh and dwelling among us. But if we pause and look more deeply, the manger is not only a symbol of humility, but a call to a way of life.

Jesus, born as a servant king, showed us that true greatness is not found in power, position, or possessions, but in surrender and service. It is his character of leading by serving others that makes him strikingly attractive.

Yet many of us struggle to step into that calling. I know I do. I am often held back by the things that steal my peace and keep me from embodying Christ's love. Pride whispers that I need recognition. Fear convinces me that if I don't look out for myself, no one else will. And disappointment when life hasn't gone as I've hoped can lead to bitterness, which closes me off to giving and receiving love.

This is why Christmas is such good news. In the birth of Jesus, God shattered the chains that keep us bound. He entered our broken world not with armies or crowns, but with swaddling cloths and a feeding trough. He came as one who would wash feet, touch lepers, embrace children, and ultimately carry a cross. His leadership wasn't about climbing higher, but stooping lower.

Servant leadership begins in the heart. It means choosing peace over striving, love over fear, and humility over pride. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26, NIV). The Prince of Peace leads by serving, and his Spirit empowers us to do the same.

So, what does this look like in our lives this season? At home, servant leadership might mean slowing down enough to really listen to those around us instead of just accomplishing all the tasks. It might mean doing the unnoticed chores, or giving grace when tensions rise and leading in repentance. At work, it could mean putting others' needs ahead of your own advancement, encouraging rather than competing, and modeling integrity when it costs something. Everyday choosing to do the right thing, not the easy thing.

In community, it might mean extending hospitality to neighbors, giving generously, or stepping in where no one else wants to serve.

The irony of the Christmas story is that the way to true joy and peace is not through holding on, but through letting go. When we release pride, fear, and selfish ambition, we make room for Christ to reign in our hearts. And when he reigns, his peace and love overflow into every part of our lives.

Jesus calls us to walk in his footsteps, leading not by power, but by love.



## PRAYER

*Father, thank you for sending our servant leader. Teach us to follow your example, laying down pride and fear so that your peace and love might fill our hearts and overflow to others. This Christmas, may we lead as you led, through service, humility, and love. Amen.*



**BY STEWART SCOTT**  
Associate Director of Counseling Ministry