

I. Introduction:

- A.** Much of traditional Christian scholarship views the revelation of Jesus as a Servant through the lens of the “Suffering Servant,” which is a reference to Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 53). We can never fully appreciate what it means for God to come and live among us, suffer for us on the cross, and take away our sins. The Christ of the cross is a reality never to be diminished in any way, and only to be further explored. (See Isaiah 53:11, 1 Corinthians 2:2).
- B.** Tonight, however, I want to take us on a brief forward-looking journey instead of backward (although, again, not to diminish the importance of that in any way). The wondrous truth of the gospel is not only that Jesus was a “Suffering Servant” 2,000 years ago, but that He will always be a Servant forever. He will reign forever in glory as a Servant King. As a resurrected Man, full of the glory of God—and being the very Son of God—He will still serve the believing resurrection community on the New Earth in a spirit of humility, just like He does now from Heaven. In short, Jesus will never cease to be the servant-oriented leader we see so clearly in the four gospel accounts. For the rest of eternity—for endless ages—King Jesus will interact with resurrected saints as a “Glorious Servant” fully committed to values of meekness and humility. His power will never become corrupted, and His attitude will never become arrogant—for time without end. Brothers and sisters, this is such good news!

II. Jesus the Servant.

Luke 22:27 | For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

John 13:12-17 | ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

- A.** As the disciples followed Jesus, they began to refer to Him as their Teacher and Lord, and so He was. They believed what He taught, and that He was the Messiah prophesied to come. And yet, it was when Jesus revealed Himself as a Servant that really caught them off guard. Peter especially struggled with it (John 13:6-10). Messianic views among Jesus’ followers were varied, but largely oriented more toward a Christ who would lead some kind of take-over and free them from the oppression of Roman (government) occupation. They believed Jesus was the Prophet that Moses spoke of (Deuteronomy 18:15) who would lead them out from the tyrannical grip of Rome, just like the Moses freed Israel from the grip of Egypt.
- B.** Many Christians today view Jesus in much just the same way—as the answer to government overreach. They conflate Him with things like political freedom and conservatism, or political responsibility and liberalism—depending on which view they hold. To the politically-oriented mind, Jesus exists to somehow fulfill their own privately-held political narrative, and to set in motion their vision of the future. Although it’s not my intention to speak much about this in particular tonight, this has never been more clear to me in our own country in America than in the last year or so.

John 18:36 | Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

- C.** The truth is that Jesus did not come to serve our political vision of the future, but to help us become like Him, which is servant-like. As shocking as this was to the first disciples, it’s still shocking to many of His followers today. They find it difficult to believe that a foot-washer sits above the circle of the Earth on Heaven’s throne of majesty. 2,000 years ago, the washing of feet was considered the most base task. There was nothing lower or more menial. Typically a slave or servant present during a meal would be the one to wash the guests’ feet. To help the disciples see their error of arguing about who was the greatest, Jesus became that humble servant-slave in the room. Just as He laid down his divine rights and privileges to live among us and die for us, He laid down His role as a teaching Rabbi in that moment to show them all a picture of what He is like, and how He lived to give His life as a ransom for others like you and me.

Mark 10:42-45 | ⁴² But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Matthew 11:29 | Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

III. Jesus the Glorious Servant.

John 13:23 | Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

Revelation 1:17 | And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

- A.** I love trying to think about what went through the aged apostle John's head as he saw the resurrected Christ, full of glory, in His revelatory vision. The young John had enjoyed leaning against Jesus comfortably. Now he was falling dead at his Lord's feet. He was no longer looking at the Christ in His most abased state, but now seeing Him in His most exalted state. The plainness and ordinariness that Jesus embraced as He walked the Earth for 33 years was now exchanged for the fullness of light and glory. His very presence now makes the brightness of the sun pale in comparison to His majesty. And yet, this Man Jesus bows down to touch and lift up His longtime friend. How can we not worship a Man like this?
- B.** One of the great biblical assurances is that Jesus will never change (because perfection does not need to). He will never shift or morph into another type of person. Jesus is the perfect leader, and He will never become a tyrannical dictator.

Hebrews 13:8 | Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- C.** Imagine with me for a moment 73,000,000 years (totally made up number) into the future. You're outside maybe pacing around your property picking up the yard, and you notice out of the corner of your eye the Lord Himself approaching. Filled with joy and emotion, you walk toward Him and His big smile and bright countenance just takes you in. It was an impromptu meeting and He just wanted to say hello. He says something like, "I noticed you were working in the garden today; your feet have gotten a little muddy. Mind if I take care of that for you?" Brothers and sisters, this is a picture of what your eternity will be like with the King of glory. He will always be friendly and always be a humble servant. Yes, He will be ruling the cosmos with unthinkable power, but in a spirit of meekness. It's hard not to love and worship a God like this—who died for you so that you can have a close friendship with God Himself forever. Truly, there is nobody like Him.

Song of Solomon 5:10 | My beloved is white (*radiant*) and ruddy (*tanned, reddish*), Chief among ten thousand.

Song of Solomon 5:10 (TPT) | He alone is my beloved. He shines in dazzling splendor yet is still so approachable— without equal as he stands above all others, outstanding among ten thousand!

IV. The future of the church.

- A.** A question that often comes up is about the future of the church. People ask, "Where is the church going?" or "Where is this ministry going?" In my experience, oddly enough, this line of questioning often comes up just before people leave for the next thing that they believe will be exciting. I have watched people for much of 20 years plus "chasing" the next thing from church to church, ministry to ministry, movement to movement. What's sad is they often end up disillusioned and shallow instead of satisfied and deep. The reason for this is very often because they approached Jesus' church as a consumer, instead of as a servant. They go to church services, prayer meetings, conferences, etc. looking for what they can get out of it, instead of who they can give to. They come expecting the worship team to excite their emotions and the preacher to say what they like instead of consistently showing up to express their devotion to God by loving the people around them. Although it's good and necessary to be receivers (our whole life!), as we grow we also learn to give. The more we become like Jesus, the more we see our responsibility is to be humble servants who give to others instead of entitled consumers who demand to be performed for and entertained in a Christian way.
- B.** The Head of the body of Christ is a Servant, and therefore the future of the church is servanthood. The future of the global church, the regional church here in central Illinois and the ministry of the Greater Peoria House of Prayer is serving. Which means, we reach our highest fulfillment and effectiveness when we view what we do as serving others. For example, at GPHOP, it would be a burden to try to be the "next best thing" in the city. Instead, we view what we do here as washing the feet of the saints through our prayers, teaching ministry, etc. We are seeking to help the larger church be more what she is called to be through what we do. Our focus is not on us trying to make something significant happen, but on seeing the larger picture and our small but meaningful role in it.
- C. Concluding thoughts:** I've taken some time tonight to demonstrate from Scripture that Jesus is a Servant, and that He will always be a glorious Servant. The future of His church will always consist in a spirit of servanthood. We lose our way when we lose this attitude of mind and heart. As you go tonight—and as you reflect on this message throughout the weekend—be sure to talk your servant-hearted Lord and ask Him to make you more like Him both now and throughout the seasons of your life. Let's pray about that as we close.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for February 12, 2021.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:**
 - We're open from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Hope to gather with you in prayer!
 - I am starting the planning for our 2021 family leadership gathering in March. More to come on this!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, currently stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*