

Care Ministry Prayer

A Liturgy Before Serving Others

Oh Christ Who Made Himself the Servant of All,
I would set my heart and my affections upon you -
and upon you alone - for I can only
serve others rightly when such service
is undertaken from first to last as
an act of devotion to you.

In serving you, I am freed from my need for the praise
of others. So that even if my kindnesses are shed from
scarred hearts as rain from a sloped tin roof,
my joy will not be dimmed, for I will know that you
have received and remembered each act of sacrifice,
and reckoned it an act of love rendered to you.

So let my love be sincere, and let my service be fearless, Oh Lord.

I would serve in imitation of you, who poured out your life
for me. I would serve knowing that your Spirit is ever at work
in the lives of those I serve, ever calling, ever drawing,
ever seeking to soften hearts encased in fear and
disappointment and anger and idolatry. So let my kindnesses
and sacrifice fall like warm shafts of sunlight on icy ground.

I cannot know the end of another person's story.
Our lives so often only briefly intersect. So let me
be content to minister regardless
of visible outcomes, trusting that the small mercies
I extend will be woven into the larger theme of
redemption at work in the lives of others as you
woo them to yourself, drawing their hearts
by graces offered, and shaping my own heart too
in this process of learning to serve well, and
by learning to serve well, learning to love well.

Amen.

Every Moment Holy Volume I, Douglas McKelvey

Read

S: Matthew 25:34-40

M: John 15: 9-17

T: Romans 12: 9-13

W: Galatians 6:9-10

TH: Philippians 2:1-4

F: Hebrews 10: 23-25

S: 1 Peter 4:8-11

As you read the scripture passage each day this week, read it slowly the first time.
Read it a second time and notice which words stand out to you.
Read that section again and ask God to help you keep it in mind throughout the day.