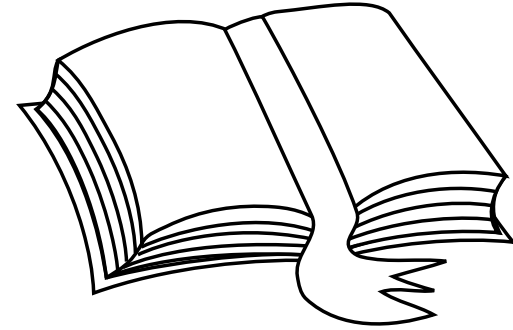


Jesus was *righteous*. He was sinless, never breaking any part of God's Laws. Because He was sinless, He fulfilled the Law completely for us, making it possible for us to be *righteous* in God's sight through faith in Jesus, the *Righteous Servant*. As righteous people of God we can be in a proper relationship with God.

To acquit someone is very different from forgiving him/her. To acquit in a court of law means to say that you are declared *not guilty*. You have not done wrong. You do not owe anything or have to do anything as a result of your actions (such as go to jail or pay a fine). You have no guilt. You are innocent.

B. Historically a *share* was the portion of the spoils of war which was given to the victorious rulers or generals when they won the war. In Genesis 14:22-24 Abraham declines his *share* of the things he brought back after he won the war against Chedorlaomer and his allies and brought back Lot and all his possessions. Abraham didn't take anything, but his allies could take their share.

NOTES



MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. When you think of the word *servant*, what comes to your mind? Is it positive or negative?
- B. In your culture what is/was the social position of a servant?
- C. How are/were servants treated?
- D. How do you think you would feel if you were asked to take a job as a servant?

SECTION II. As humans, many of us probably do not want to become servants to others. But God's ideas about things are often different from the world's ideas. In Matthew 20, two of the apostles and their mother were asking Jesus to give the men places next to Jesus in God's Kingdom. Read Matthew 20:24-28.

- A. What does Jesus say about power in the world? About *being great* and *being the most important*?

MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT LEADER'S NOTES

- B. How might what Jesus says in this passage change our ideas about the meaning of *the most important or greatest person*?
- C. In this passage Jesus speaks of *the Son of Man*. Who is He talking about?
- D. When Jesus says this, who is He saying He is?
- E. Why does Jesus say that He came to earth?
- F. As a result of Him being our servant, what did Jesus do?
- G. If we take Jesus' idea about greatness and apply it to our own lives, what are some things that might change?

SECTION III. Jesus said He had come to serve. In Philippians we can learn more about what that means. Read Philippians 2:6-8.

- A. What position did Jesus have in heaven before coming to earth?
- B. What did He choose to do?
 - 1. What does *emptied himself* mean?

SECTION I.

In most modern cultures, servants have a low status. Doing things that others tell us to do, the way we are told to do them and when we are told to do them is considered demeaning by many people. It goes against what most people want, especially if the task is considered somehow dirty or difficult. It goes against human nature for many people. The introduction is an opportunity to discuss attitudes toward servants and their status in various societies. It also provides an opportunity to explore the feelings people have about servanthood on a personal level. Does being a servant mean that you are unimportant and have low status?

SECTION II.

In the culture of Jesus time, servants were usually slaves, bought at the market or taken in war. The servants might be children born to slaves. Some people sold themselves to pay their debts. They belonged completely to their masters and were expected to serve without question. Most of these people were well treated in terms of having their basic human needs for food and clothing met. Many were educated. Many had opportunities to be freed. All of this was to the advantage of the master as well. But they were still slaves and had to do as they were told and most worked hard.

The *Son of Man* was one of the Messianic titles which Jesus applied to Himself. It was a statement which the Jews understood as a claim that Jesus was God. The *Son of Man* appeared in Daniel's vision in Daniel 7:13-14.

SECTION IV.

A. Isaiah 53 is a wonderful chapter of Isaiah which gives us a picture of who Jesus is as the *Suffering Servant*. In verse 11 He is called the *Righteous Servant*. We are told what the results of Jesus' suffering will be. Jesus was God's servant all of His life.

obedient following the rules or laws

point place

Isaiah 53:11b-12

righteous morally good

acquit declared not guilty

burden heavy load

share (noun) a portion

divide to separate into pieces

intercede to plead on behalf of someone else

rebellious doing what a person in authority over us does not want us to do; to do the opposite of what we are told to do

Romans 5:10

restore make right, bring back to original condition

relationship connection

2. What changes might we make to *empty ourselves*? If we empty ourselves, what or who takes the empty place?

3. What was the result of the *emptying* in Jesus' life?

SECTION IV. About 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote about *my Righteous Servant*. He was speaking of Jesus. Read Isaiah 53:11b-12.

A. What two things will God's Righteous Servant do?

1. If a court of law *acquits* a person, what does that mean?

2. What does the fact that Jesus acquits us mean to us in our lives?

B. What did God give Jesus as a result of the fact that Jesus became a servant and carried the burden of all of our sins?

C. Why is Jesus being given this *share*?

D. Jesus intercedes (or pleads) for the *rebellious*. Who do you think they are?

SECTION V. Read Romans 5:10.

A. What two things does this verse say are the results of Jesus' servanthood in life and death?

B. How does the result of Jesus being a servant change our attitude about being a servant?

MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT VOCABULARY

Matthew 20:24-28

irritated	upset, angry
apostles	men chosen by Christ to preach (teach) the Gospel
rulers	kings
absolute	complete
power	force, strength
authority	control, command
servant	a person who is paid to work in another person's house
slave	a person who is owned by another person and who must work for his owner without pay
ransom	price paid to free a prisoner

Philippians 2:6-8

form	shape, appearance
equal-equality	same as
advantage	help to gain a desired result
appearance	outward qualities
humbled	to lower one's position