



SPIRIT OF SERVICE – LESSON 6

The Holy Spirit leads us downward – is that surprising to you. We often feel that we always need to have an upward mobility – like climbing the social ladders to reach a higher position.

But the Spirit leads us downwards – to the bottom, to the place of humility, to the position and posture of service....that's where the Spirit, like water, flows.

Before Jesus and even after Him, most people assumed that God was at a great distance above us. To approach God meant to leave this world. But Jesus modelled a profoundly different vision. God comes down. God meets us where we are, in our neighbourhood, on our level, where we need God most. God descends to the pit of need, suffering, and abandonment. God is with us – here, now, in reach.

Read: Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus shocked everyone as He took on the role of the servant, washing His disciple's feet. Jesus walked out to the margins to hang out with the outcasts and outsiders. Jesus pours out everything He is and has.

If you listen to the Spirit you will be drawn away from the table of privilege – to the homeless, the sick, the poor, unemployed, those with special needs, refugees, immigrants, minority, different, the odd, the last, the least, the lonely and the lost.

The Spirit will invite you to hear their concerns, take them to heart and join your heart with theirs.

Read: Philippians 2:1-11.

If you listen to the Spirit you will:

- Accept that a person has a problem when they tell lies about you - not retaliate.
- Admit when you have made a mistake - not cover it up.

- Speak up for someone who is being discriminated against – not walk away.
- Respond wisely and gently when tasks have been left undone – not respond with anger.
- Reach out with love and care to someone who is culturally different from you – not turn away.
- Be drawn to opportunities to serve – not leave it to someone else.
- Appreciate the times when you need to be served and thank those who are giving to you in your time of need.

The Spirit of God leads downward – to humility, in service, in solidarity, in risk and grace.

You won't find God at the top of the ladder. You find God through descent. There is a trapdoor at the bottom and when you fall through it, you fall into God.

It happened to Jesus. It will happen to you too, if you follow the Spirit's lead.

Engage:

What thought or idea from today's lesson especially intrigued, disturbed, challenged or encouraged you.

Recall a time when you have served someone else and a time when you were served. How did it feel?

Activate:

This week, be open to the Spirit leading you downward. Share your experience with someone else.

Meditate:

Imagine yourself among the original learning circle of disciples. Jesus comes to wash your feet. Simply let that experience play out in your imagination in silence.