

## The Heart of a Servant I

*NKJ* **Matthew 20:24-28** And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers.<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.<sup>26</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.**<sup>27</sup> And **whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave**—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

*MSG* **Matthew 20:24-28** When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers.<sup>25</sup> So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads.<sup>26</sup> It's not going to be that way with you. **Whoever wants to be great** must become a **servant**.<sup>27</sup> Whoever wants to be **first** among you must be your **slave**.<sup>28</sup> That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to **serve**, not be **served**—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage."

Relationships are complex and complicated.

All of Jesus' disciples will face collegial relationships that will test and try them.

Jesus had 12 disciples.

- Two brothers wanted to achieve greatness.
- Ten became very displeased at them.
- Jesus becomes a mediator and a teacher.

Jesus teaches us about kingdom relationships based on love, mutual respect, and service.

I

Love is the basis of all healthy relationships.

It takes time to develop healthy relationships (HR).

It takes tenacity to avoid easily pulling apart and remain cohesive.  
It's easy to separate; it takes work to stay together.

It's easy to pull apart and work alone.

It takes **intentional** decisions and actions to stay together and serve one another in love.

*KJV Galatians 5:13-14* For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another.** <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

## II

Healthy relationships are not exempt from pain.

There may be **trauma** in developing healthy relationships.

Trauma is an injury (such as a wound) to living **tissue** caused by an extrinsic agent.

Trauma is a disordered psychic or behavioral state resulting from severe **mental** or **emotional** stress or physical injury. *Merriam-Webster*

Jesus the Good Shepherd experienced wounds from **friends**. (friendly fire or wounds)

*KJV Psalm 41:9* Yea, mine own familiar friend, **in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread,** hath lifted up his heel against me.

*NLT Psalm 41:9* Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, **the one who shared my food,** has turned against me.

*KJV Psalm 55:12-14* For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: <sup>13</sup> But it was thou, **a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.** <sup>14</sup> We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

It takes the Holy Ghost to develop Healthy Relationships and **journey** through our trauma.

### III

It takes a heavenly model to **develop** a healthy relationship.

There are three in Heaven.

*KJV* **1 John 5:7-8** For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. <sup>8</sup> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

*Msg* **1 John 5:6-8** Jesus—the Divine Christ! He experienced a life-giving birth and a death-killing death. Not only birth from the womb, but baptismal birth of his ministry and sacrificial death. And all the while the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God's presence at Jesus' baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us. <sup>8</sup> A triple testimony: the Spirit, the Baptism, the Crucifixion. And the three in perfect agreement.

- The Godhead Models healthy relationships.

There is Unity and diversity.

They **complete** and don't compete.

There is a **mutual** relationship based on love.

There is mutual **submission** based on trust.

There is mutual **support** based on respect.

- We are created in His image.

*Relationships are complex and complicated.*

*Watch what I do next!*

9:30 a.m.