



Luke 22 is all about the servant. Jesus is eating his last meal with them. He says he will suffer. Then two of his disciples ask to sit beside him in heaven. They just don't get it. Then Jesus reminds them to serve one another. That's the whole point. Jesus came to serve them as an example. He said plainly "do this, (the meal) in honor of me." Jesus washed their feet. He fed the people. He healed and prayed. This man from God served those around him. Yet, the disciples quarreled about position and lack of funds. Not once, in the Gospels are the disciples helping people. Jesus told them to do all these things in Matthew 10. It's not reported how much they did. I am sure the disciples were kind men. I'm sure they wanted to do right by Jesus. Yet, Peter did not want Jesus to suffer. Judas betrayed Jesus why? Was it because of power, money, or something else? Why did Peter run from Jesus after the arrest? Who was willing to suffer in the name of Jesus?

Yet, Jesus had to explain feeding people to them. He had to explain serving others. Jesus was a servant first and foremost. Romans 12:1 *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* We tend to say Jesus offered up his body as a suffering servant. Yet, Jesus loved to serve. He went to weddings and turned water into wine. He let Lazarus live. He elevated Martha (from sex worker) to disciple. In all he did, Jesus served.

John 13:8 *"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."*

This is it! Jesus served to show his love. Matthew 7:16 *"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?"* Jesus told them plainly that they must serve in love. They will also know they are his disciples by their love for each

other. Jesus taught about serving all the time. He rebuked them for hindering the children. He rebuked them for hindering Martha to serve him. Jesus was all about serving.

Yet, Jesus was all about suffering too. He prayed drops of blood while stressed. He offered himself as a sacrifice on the cross. Matthew 11:29 says “*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.*” Jesus took our sin on the cross. He asked to take our troubles upon him. I would even say that the divine Jesus in heaven sacrificed his royalty. Jesus was God. He came down and made himself like men. He lowered himself to be a servant of those he helped create. Is it suffering to be holy and live among sin? Jesus knew how to suffer.

So, they call him the suffering servant. He asked his disciples to suffer with him. To carry their cross in his name. To be abused in his name. Jesus asked us to serve like he did. To take the hit like he did. Yet, one of the last things he said was to eat, sing, and rejoice with a meal in his name. To do this in memory of him. We will suffer (somewhat) for being called Christians. We will find it tiring to serve in his name. Yet, we are called to rejoice within this serving and suffering. We should not look for suffering. People should not notice we serve. What? No, we are called to love, serve, and sacrifice in the name of Christ. As we serve and love others, at times, we will be weary and suffer. Yet we should seek to love and serve beyond looking like we suffer and serve. There is a difference.

Mark 10:45 “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”