

# IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

I will bless you to be a blessing to all people.

*Genesis 12:1-3*

Your hear to be light, bringing out the God colors in the world...Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God this generous Father in heaven.

*Matthew 5:14&16 The Message*

In a pluralistic world, a religion is valued based on the benefits it brings to its nonadherents.

*Brian McLaren Generous Orthodoxy*

Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

*John 13:13The Message*

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.

*John 15:12-13*

Lord help me choose a simpler life style that promotes solidarity with the world's poor, helps me appreciate nature more and more, affords greater opportunity to work together with my neighbors, reduces my use of limited resources, creates greater inner harmony, saves money, allows time for meditation and prayer, incites me to political and social action. May all my decisions about my style of life celebrate the joy of life that comes from loving you.

*Thomas Pettepiece Visions of a world hungry*

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

*Philippians 2:5 The Message*