



Servanthood-I

This, however, is not the way it shall be among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be your slave – like the Son of man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.

Matthew 20:26-28

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What does the Holy Spirit need to remove from me so that I can hear Christ's calling?

Prayer Focus: Those who are struggling to hear the whispers of our Lord

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-I

Holy Listening!

Jesus said that we should love our neighbor just as we love ourselves. It is a good thing to develop a loving attitude toward others – even our enemies.

But, Jesus didn't stop there. He showed us that love is more than an attitude – it's an action. Wash the feet of others. Give the thirsty a drink. Visit the prisoner. Christ Himself was the essence of this love in action. The Word (love) became flesh (service).

One of the most basic ways of putting love into action is to listen. Are you a good listener? I struggled with listening – I was always preparing for what I was going to say next. Then I learned that Holy Listening requires surrendering our agenda to the speaker!

I began to realize why I sometimes have trouble in my prayers – to listening to God. It's because I don't surrender my "stuff." I'm thinking about my response. I'm focused on me, rather than on the speaker – God.

We become Holy Listeners when we surrender our agenda to the speaker. The speaker's message becomes more important to us than our response. When we listen with a holy heart, we have put love into action.

Who do I need to listen to?



***It's the first
time I can
remember
when someone
cared how I
felt***



Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them.
Remember those who are suffering, as though you were suffering as they are.

Hebrews 13:3

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

What prison is holding me?

Prayer Focus: Christians persecuted in weakness

My prayers go out for...

Listening With Our Heart

*The theme of every Kairos is **Listen, Listen, Love, Love.** Most of us can understand the “love, love” part, but “listen, listen”? Why would listening be raised to the level of a key attitude that we should have?*

We come to the prisoner not as “experts” with all the answers. We come simply as Christians – the family of Christ, who love even the unlovable. We love, not because we are so great, but because Christ is!

We listen to hear – not to react – but to hear. Hearing is a foreign concept in prison. There is seldom an opportunity to be heard. Oh, sure there’s the superficial stuff – the surface things. But, what’s going on inside you? How you feel about something personal? It’s a rare event in prison. However, rare or not, it is so critical to learn to truly listen to each other in order that the inmate be able to be an active and vital part of Christian community.

During the Instructional Reunion after the Kairos Weekend, there is a talk on Listening. Afterwards, rather than discussing the talk, groups of 3 form to practice listening. One person is the speaker, one is the listener, and one is the observer who will reflect back to the listener things they did well, and things that could be improved.

Listening Essentials

- *Suspend judgement, be open to the presence of a painful heart*
- *Body posture should indicate your interest*
- *Good eye contact*
- *Use oral responses which are affirming, which say “I am with*

Servanthood-2

Imagine the scene:

You are with someone who has asked you a hard question – a deep question. You sense that they really want to know. There’s a genuine caring in their voice and in their body language.

How do you want them to respond as you begin to make yourself vulnerable by honestly answering the question? Imagine what they are doing and saying as you open up with your heart felt answer. Are they paying attention, or are they distracted? Are they talking as much as you, or are they truly listening? Are they understanding or are they trying to counsel you?

How do you feel about them? Do they really care about you? Do they really want to know what you feel? Or, are they just passing time? If you sense that they really do care by their interest in hearing your answer, are you more likely to really share what’s going on inside? Are you more likely to trust them?

How a person listens is so critical in Kairos. Not only does it say a lot to the person talking, but it says a lot about us!

Are we really concerned, or are we just going through the motions?

Are we more concerned about what we’re going to say next than what the person talking is really saying?

Pitfalls to Avoid

- *Me-too-ism*
- *Moralizing, preaching, being judgmental*
- *Becoming an “interviewer” rather than a listener*
- *Giving advice (trying to “fix” it*
- *“Oh, that’s not so bad”*
- *Arguing or disagreeing with the speaker*
- *Analyzing or interpreting*

Servanthood-2

Let’s imagine the scene again:

This time, imagine YOU have asked someone else the question, and they are becoming vulnerable to you in their answer. How will you respond as a Holy Listener?

Here’s the question that you have been asked:

How do I deal with being hurt by others?

Now, imagine the other person answering this question. How will you respond? Will you be focused on them? Will you communicate your “judgement” or your compassion by your body language? What will your facial expression say to the person talking?

Practice this scene in your mind. Play it over and over to help you prepare for being a Holy Listener.

In what area do I need to be a better listener?



Servanthood-3

I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25:35,36

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

Who has fed you?

Prayer Focus: Those who are giving to people in need

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-3

Agape

Love, Sacrificially Given

Imagine with me for a moment. Think back to when you went on your Cursillo/Walk. What do you remember? The food and snacks? The laughter? The talks? The discussions? The chapel time? Each of us might have a different answer, but I bet there is one thing that runs like a thread through a weaving. Love. Love! Do you remember feeling loved? Loved by the Body of Christ – on behalf of Christ?

My eyes still tear up as I remember the overwhelming realization of what Christ meant when He talked of Agape. Love. A love that doesn't come from us, but a love that comes from Jesus – passed on through His unselfish body – you and I. Not just team members on a Kairos, but the body that I couldn't even see, and yet I knew that they were there. Making sacrifices so that I might experience the reality of Agape. Remember how powerful it was?

Now, think about the prison resident. Most have lived lives starved of love. Unselfish love isn't part of their experience. Love freely given isn't even a concept to them. You entered your Cursillo/Walk with a much better understanding of Agape than the average prison resident has as they enter their Kairos. Just think of the impact of being washed in all that Agape when you've lived a love-starved life!

So, how important is Agape on a Kairos? It's huge! But, it's even bigger than you're thinking!

Think about all those people in the Body of Christ who are seeking ways to be Christ's disciple in the world. Think of all those church members who need to find a way to love others on behalf of Christ, yet don't know where to start. Think of those little old ladies who have compassionate hearts, but who can't get out much anymore. They think that their lives of being servants are over. They have no vision of how to minister in Christ's name anymore.

Think of the young family. Young, faithful parents who are looking for ways to teach their kids how to live like Christ. Think of the opportunity for parents to teach youngsters about Agape love – Christ's love – even to the unlovable!

Servanthood-3

Think of the Sunday School class that doesn't know how to serve on behalf of Christ. Think of how powerful it would be for them to realize how they were really the hands of Christ in action.

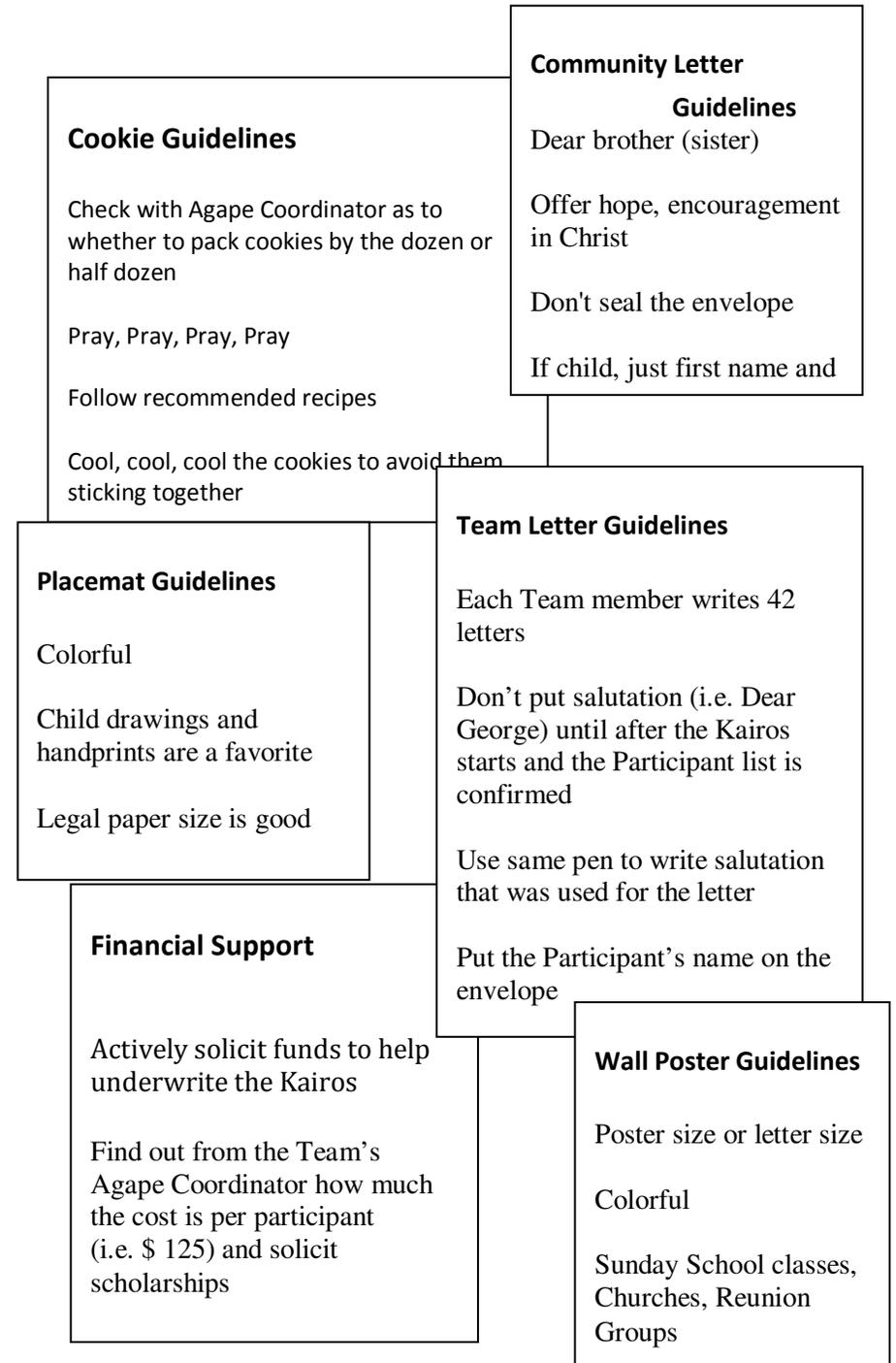
There's a whole world of Christians who don't know how to pass on Christ's uncompromising love to the lost and the needy. Christ's unselfish love. Agape love. What a gift you have to offer them!

A gift? You bet – by just asking “Won't you make a poster that expresses hope in Jesus? Won't you help spread God's love by baking cookies that are washed in prayer? Won't you help financially sponsor a lost soul to come where they may find Jesus – and a new beginning? Won't you help make disciples?”

Agape is God's gift of love. It gets communicated by tangible objects – Cookies, money, posters, letters, and placemats. These are the tangible acts of Agape. But it is the love that is working miracles – on both sides of that cookie! Won't you help make those miracles?

Who do I need to give a chance to express Christ's love through an act of Agape for this Kairos?

Servanthood-3





Servanthood-4!

Obeys your leaders and follow their orders. They watch over your souls without resting, since they must give to God an account of their service. If you obey them, they will do their work gladly; If not, they will do it with sadness, and that would be of no help to you.

Hebrews 13:17

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

When have I let "my" focus prevent me from being a Servant for Christ?

Prayer Focus: Those who fail in trying to live as a
Servant

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-4!

Just Let Me Serve!

We don't just volunteer to "work" on a Kairos, we are to "experience" the Kairos. We get the opportunity to practice living out the sacrificial life of love to which Christ calls us. We are to approach the experience with the heart of a servant.

Did you know that there's a difference between living a life "in service" and in being "a servant?" When you make yourself available to be "in service," who is in control? You are! You determine when and how you can serve. You fit serving into your schedule – into your agenda – on your terms. You are in control.

But when you are a servant, who is in control? The servant's master is! It is the master's schedule that determines when and where and how we will serve. The servant sets their own priorities aside and adopts the master's priorities.

In the Kairos experience, you are asked to be a servant. We set "our" stuff aside, we make ourselves available for how God wants to use us. The team Leader searches in prayer for God's direction – then makes the team assignments. The Leader asks you to be a servant – and to trust that God has a purpose for your assignment and will give you the strength to accomplish His job.

Lord, give me a willing heart to set my desires aside and to humbly accept my assignment with a joyful and trusting heart.



Servanthood-5

You are the people of God; He loved you and chose you for His own. So then, you must clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12

What is God saying to ME through this Word?

How can I clothe myself in love for this Kairos?

Prayer Focus: Christians who joyfully serve the Lord with a humble heart

My prayers go out for...

Servanthood-5

Blessed Servants

A foundation of living the Christian life is learning to be a servant. A servant – giving with no expectation of receiving anything in return. It's in the free giving that we find true blessings. Nowhere in Kairos is that more evident than in the Outside Support team.

Many people think that the Support team is there for the purpose of making that great, home-cooked food. Well, yes food is usually part of the Support team's responsibility. But there is so much more. Usually, the Support team handles a number of responsibilities:

Breakfast for the team

Meals

Cookie packaging

Agape-Posters, Letter packaging

Inventory – preparing the deliveries

Runners – transporting meals

Even all these “jobs” on the Support team don't describe what the team's real job is. The Support team is a model, a real-life experience in living the life of a servant! Not visible – just focused on serving so that Christ's purposes are fulfilled!

So often people comment about the sacrifice, the giving, the blessings of the Inside team. But that Support team, quietly serving in the shadow with prayers on their hearts and lips represents a great Agape gift. Those inmates just can't imagine people doing all that work – for them! What is expected from the participant in return? Nothing. Nothing – no price – nothing in return! They just want you to know that they are lovingly serving you because of Jesus' love for them! They want you to know that they serve with love in their soul because of what Jesus has already done for them.

What a blessing the Support team is! And you know what? By giving away Christ's love, they find they are blessed! Oh – how God surprises us. What a great Master we serve!