

# MASTERING SERVANTHOOD

(Matthew 5:13a, 14)

## HIS MENTORING...

### A. Growing up in Nazareth, Jesus was confronted with images of greatness

#### 1. Antipas wanted to impress Caesar so he built Sepphoris (pop. 30,000)

*"A city set on a hill that cannot be hidden."* (Matthew 5:14)

#### 2. It took a lot of money to build this city so people paid a lot of taxes

##### a. Often people couldn't pay and lost their land

##### b. The absentee landlords lived in mansions in Sepphoris

### B. Some believe Joseph worked construction in the city

#### 1. The Greek word for workman is *tekton* (carpenter; a tradesman)

##### a. *Tekton* is the word the Bible uses to describe Joseph and Jesus

##### b. Joseph (and Jesus) probably worked in Sepphoris (no work in Nazareth)

#### 2. Nazareth had a population of about 300 people. That's it!

*"Come with me and see. We have found the One, Jesus of Nazareth. He's the one we've been waiting for!" Nathaniel's response: Nazareth! Can anything good come from Nazareth?* (John 1:45-46)

### C. In Sepphoris there was an amphitheater that seated about four thousand

#### 1. Greek word for actor was *hupokritis* (hypocrite)

*"When you give, do not announce it with trumpets as the hypocrites (i.e., actors) do to be honored by men."* (Matthew 6:2)

#### 2. That's not greatness. It's pretentiousness

*"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disguise their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth. They have their reward."* (Matt. 6:16)

### D. Jesus may also have seen what happened to Judas the Galilean (Acts 5)

#### 1. The Romans captured and crucified Judas and over 2000 followers

#### 2. It was a taste of what Jesus could expect

### E. All his life, Jesus lived in obscurity and poverty

#### 1. At 12, he went to Jerusalem. He was talking with the Temple teachers

#### 2. Jesus leaves and goes back to Nazareth and willingly serves his family

## HIS MOVEMENT

### A. When his movement begins, he says to his group of peasant followers:

*"You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid."* (Matthew 5:13a,14)

#### 1. We'll build a city so beautiful that it will take your breath away

*"Let your light shine before human beings so that they see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

#### 2. There's never been a community like this before

*"He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"* (John 1:29)

*"Rabbi. The man Jesus who was with you has begun baptizing and now everyone is going to him."* (John 3:26)

*"You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I'm not the Christ. I'm not the Messiah, but am sent ahead of him. The bride belongs to the Bridegroom. The friend who attends the Bridegroom waits and listens for him and is full of joy when he hears his voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."* (John 3:28-29)

*"He (Jesus) must become greater. I must become less"* (John 3:30)

### B. In God's Kingdom the one who serves is exalted

*"You are not to be like that. Instead the greatest among you should be like the youngest. And the one who rules—the one who has the most power and authority—should be like the one who serves. For who is regarded as greater? The one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? That's the way things work in our world. But I am among you as One who serves."* (Luke 22:26-27)

#### 1. The washing of feet was so degrading Jewish slaves did not have to do it

#### 2. When Jesus kneeled to wash his disciples feet, they were embarrassed

*"I have set you an example that you should do what I have done"* (John 13:15)

#### 3. What does greatness look like in God's eyes? Like Jesus...

##### a. We'll build a city set on a hill. We're going to use a basin and towel!

##### b. Sepphoris has been rubble for centuries. Jesus' city is still growing

### C. Remember what the disciples argued about most?

#### 1. Who's the greatest? The need runs deep in the human condition

#### 2. Our only hope is Jesus

### D. What is your mission? What are you building?

#### 1. Everyone needs a basin and a towel

#### 2. We're to become like Christ. Together we're to build a city