



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day
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“Helping hands are better than praying lips,” says Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She practiced what she told us to do in her life. I am fortunate to see her serving activities for the poor in Calcutta, India. We know that she is known for her service to the most vulnerable people in India and around the world. She confessed boldly that Jesus is the source of all her service to the humanity.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus who is the Greatest Teacher, first washes the feet of His disciples and then teaches them on Christian service. He serves them first and then only gives them a lecture on how to serve. Jesus teaches us to serve others because He himself came into this world to serve and not to be served. He expects us to be humble even as we serve because humility is the trademark of His own service.

By serving others in fact we are serving God Himself. For Jesus says, “*Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me*” (Matthew 25: 31-46). St. Paul also insists us on to serve others. “*My friends you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead let love make you serve one another*” (Galatians 5:13)

We are not saved by serving, but we are saved for serving. The Apostle Paul gives an insight related to this: The basis for serving others is salvation. Paul says, “*You were called to be free.*” We cannot serve God until we have been set free by Jesus. It is the prerequisite for serving. Until we experience the transforming power of God’s grace in our life, we are enslaved by your own hurts, and hang-ups to think much about others. We should also be liberated from selfishness to serve others.

The present situation of the world demands the need of service to the Covid-19 affected patients and the abandoned. Let us take Jesus as our model for service and prove that we are true disciples of Jesus by rendering others humble and loving service today according to our capacity.