## WOW: Word Of the Week

### Servant

**August 26, 2026**

***"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"*** **(Mk. 10:45)**

On a recent Sunday, as Jan and I listened to Christian music on YouTube, which is pretty much our custom from the time we arise until we leave for worship, a song caught our attention – but not at first; the words were familiar. "Make me a servant, make me like you, you are a servant, make me one too…" The song is in our songbooks, one verse, with the melody labeled "traditional."

What caught our attention was the "rest of the song." Two more verses that we do not remember hearing.

*--To love my brother, to serve like You do. I humble my spirit, I bow before You.*
*And through my service, I'll be just like You. So make me a servant, make me like You.*
*--Open my hands, Lord, and teach me to share; Open my heart, Lord, and teach me to care.*
*For service to others is service to You. Make me a servant, make me like You.*

That's it! Being a servant depends on seeing and following the example, Jesus. It also requires a changed humble heart, willing to share and care and serve.

[Earlier this week, I shared a "bits" that gives more of the story for those interested. Links are in the written notes, both to the "bits" notes and to an article that appeared in 2019 on Hymn Studies Blog.]

In my mission focus on developing indigenous and national leaders in the churches, Mark 10 quickly became a favorite text (along with Luke 22). The larger context of Mark 8-10 provides insights. Jesus predicts his death and his disciples do not get it. He predicts his death again and his disciples argue about power and position, prestige and prominence. He predicts his death a third time and James and John seek to leverage their position in the "inner circle" to accomplish what everyone was talking about after the second prediction. The other disciples were angry. Why? Perhaps because they didn't think about being so bold in requesting promotion.

Jesus responds to say that he came to serve, not to be served. He came to sacrifice self, not to be exalted. The lesson is valid, even contemporary. The world operates one way, but it will be different among you. The way up is down. The way down is up. Greatness comes to the one who learns to serve everyone else.

WOW. Not spectacular. Not seeking special treatment. Not satisfying selfish desires. Not seeking fame. Jesus had already settled those matters in his temptation. Now his disciples are being called to settle the same questions once and for all. Until we do, we cannot be his disciple, follower, imitator.

Make me a servant!