

What are some practical instructions you can focus on from Philippians 2:3-5,14-17 as you seek to serve as Jesus did?

***“I am among you as the one who serves....
that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom...”***

By being “*the one who serves*”, Jesus implies that his disciples are V.I.P.s “*reclining*” at his table. Considering v. 27 along with Luke 13:29-30, why do you think God wants to treat disciples with a sense of greatness that flies in the face of human culture?

Jesus says in v. 28 that the disciples were important to him because they stayed with him through all his trials. This was one way they identified as people who were loyal to Christ. What is it about your life that people outside of the church could refer to that demonstrates your loyalty to Jesus?

We all have big issues in life to settle. What is a big issue for you right now? What might it mean for you to relax (*recline*) and enjoy Jesus as he cares for your needs spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically as you face that issue head on?

Jesus made his disciples aware that Satan wants their faith to fail (v. 31). What are some things we may do that make us more vulnerable to a faith failure? (*I.e., Peter greatly exaggerated his faith perhaps to make himself appear greater in the eyes of the other disciples, but we would never do that right? Right.*)

Jesus prays that Peter’s faith may not fail. As a result, after failing, he turned back with a great ability to “*strengthen his brothers*” (v. 32). The effect was the same with all the disciples who turned away temporarily. Why does Jesus want disciples to focus on serving him faithfully even after they’ve fallen away under trial?