

So, I never really considered myself to be a selfish person. I felt like I regularly thought of others - my family, friends, coworkers and strangers, before myself. That is however, until I read a post on Instagram that a well-known Christian author/speaker reposted. The post in part read, ***“In a time like now, Christian neighboring looks less like fearful self-preservation and more like servanthood...”*** I have to confess, at this point I felt like I had been punched in the stomach. I thought about my actions over the course of the previous days and determined quickly that I was self-preserving. I had been to Costco numerous times, Publix numerous times, the pharmacy and you name it all on the hunt for supplies to sustain **MY** family during a possible quarantine due to the Corona Virus. I realized not one time during this scavenger hunt had I considered others around me that may need items, help, or just reassurance and encouragement. I quickly assessed that I had been operating on fear rather than faith! I was self-consumed, not self-sacrificing.

In Philippians 2:1-8 it says, *“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Guilty, guilty as charged, that was the verdict. I had not been looking at the interest of others, I undoubtedly was not thinking of others more significantly than myself, I did not have the mindset of Christ. This passage clearly explains Christ’s mindset and we are to be like-minded with Christ. Christ humbled himself and was a servant, being obedient to the point of death. DEATH this is exactly what I was trying to avoid, not be humbled to!!

As you are at home with extra time available, consider these verses. Consider what Paul was explaining regarding the mind-set of Christ. ***Consider how you can be a servant to those that you are homebound with ~ your parents, grandparents, siblings, neighbors. Look for the opportunity to serve, not be served.*** These are very unsettling times, many things up in the air at this point – prom, graduation ceremonies, summer vacation plans, etc. The news is changing daily, things seem to be spiraling out of control, but we believers know better. We know He is faithful and is in complete control and He is trustworthy! Let’s be obedient in this time and take on the form of a humble servant. Just think what would happen if we shared in the mind-set of Christ, think of all of the possibilities.

The Instagram post ended like this, ***“Wash hands, for sure. Then, wash feet.”***