

### Service with a Smile . . . and a Song and Dance!

What's your picture of a servant? Many of us picture someone quietly going about their duties in the background, like the custodian emptying the trash or the restaurant staff clearing tables. Many Christians picture Jesus humbly washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17).

The creative teams at Disney created an interesting picture of service in the song "Be Our Guest" from their movie "Beauty and the Beast." The servants of an enchanted castle, after many long years with never a visitor, are thrilled when a guest arrives for dinner. They "only live to serve" and their service is joyful, exuberant, and unrestrained. It's not just dinner, but music and dance with a cast of thousands! It's definitely over the top!

Note the lyrics, especially where they describe how they felt when they had no one to serve.

1. This service certainly isn't "quiet" or "in the background." Would you call it humble service? Why or why not?
2. Jesus' service certainly was not flashy. He did not want to draw attention to himself as a 'miracle worker.' Do you see any of the joyful, unrestrained, 'over the top' service of the castle servants in the service of Jesus during his earthly ministry?
3. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15). How does his command and example affect the way you serve others? Very specifically, how will it affect what you do, and the way you do it, in the next 24 hours?
4. Imagine what it would be like if all of us who follow Jesus were yearning "for a soul to wait upon" and "a chance to use our skill" for others. Imagine our service being as joyful and unrestrained, as "above and beyond" and "over the top" as that of the castle servants. What would power that kind of service? What might be the results in those we serve, and those we observe our service?

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