Holy Habits: Service – week 7

Hello everyone,  
                            Servants and Friends   
             Jesus is our supreme example of what it means to be a servant. As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, “Being in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant.........and humbled himself becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.”  
Jesus demonstrated what it means to be a servant when he took the bowl and towel, and knelt to wash the feet of the disciples. And he calls on us to follow in his footsteps, or should we say, in his kneeling marks.   
                Those folks in the early church described in Acts 2 did just that. “They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” There’s no messing about there, is there?! That is the inspiration for this Holy Habit of service.  
                Graham Kendrick, in his hymn, says, “This is our God, the servant king, he calls us now to follow him....”. In John 12, Jesus says, “My Father will honour the one who serves me.”  
                 So service or servanthood is the bottom line of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, each of us according to our calling.  
                  But there’s another element to this that crops up in John 15, the chapter about Jesus being the True Vine, with us being the branches abiding in the vine. Here Jesus says that those who follow his commands will no longer be called servants, but friends. And his specific command here is, “Love one another as I have loved you.”   
                  What a thing, to be friends with Jesus! Jesus makes it clear that we are brought into his full confidence, as a friend. We are given a new level of understanding about love, friendship, discipleship, service, all somehow infused with devotion, sacrifice, and wonderfully, with joy.  
                    When we abide in him, we will surely bear fruit and fruit that will last. “Here am I, Lord, send me.”  
  
                    God bless,  
                          Graham

*Produced by Graham Wassell on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  All quotations from the Good News Translation.  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*