Space for God The Greatest Must Be A Servant



PREPARATION

• In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit •
Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud.
Psalm 138:6

WORSHIP

And from the throne came a voice that said,
"Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest."
Revelation 19:5

CONFESSION

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.
Psalm 15:1-3

MEDITATION – Matthew 23:1-12*

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.
"Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi.'
"Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your Father.
And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

ANCHORING PRAYER

Teach me to serve with humility.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

How have I loved God with all my heart, soul, and mind?

When has it been difficult to love God (and my neighbour)?

WISDOM

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.
James 4:7,10

Serve only the Lord your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.
Deuteronomy 13:4

Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

[Heavenly Father]
To the faithful you show yourself faithful;
to those with integrity you show integrity.
To the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud.
• Amen •
Psalm 18:25-27

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak, act, and serve from a listening heart.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A
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