

# Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

## Day 34 "To be a servant I must think like a servant."

Since Jesus described Himself as "humble in heart" it is quite important to understand "humility". A popular saying is that "humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less". Although not sufficient for a theological dictionary, this definition is actually useful. Let's think for a moment about what leads us to think about something. Obviously, one cause can be the prompting of another person, as I just prompted you. But what causes us to *dwell* on something? One common cause is TROUBLE. If you desperately need to go somewhere and find that your car won't start, you will think a great deal about what's wrong with your car, and how to fix it or get where you need to go some other way. If you have plenty of money to pay your bills you will simply pay them. But if you don't have enough money, you will think about money and bills a lot. If your foot feels fine you just walk on it, but if it is in terrible pain you will think of it a great deal. What about your soul? When the psalmist's soul was in anguish it captured his attention:

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?'"* (Ps 42:1-3 [NIV])

But what happens when a soul is filled with the knowledge of the love of Christ?

*"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night."* (Ps 63:3-6 [NIV])

- We think most of our biggest troubles and biggest joys.
- To simplify life, cast all your troubles on God. Then, no matter what happens, whether joyful or troublesome, you know Whom to think about.
- As God fills us with His love and His joy we won't be inclined to dwell on ourselves but on Him. Then: *"We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."* (2 Cor 3:18 [NASU])

As we lift up grateful, love-filled eyes to the lovely face of Jesus, we begin to see something in His eyes. They are moist with tears. Why is He crying? His tears are a mixture – tears of joy at seeing the love in our eyes, and tears of sadness at the suffering of the least of His brothers and sisters. If we look closely we can see their faces reflected in His tears. It is simply impossible to love Him without loving them, because they are in Him, in the very tears in His eyes. Seek to know the love of Christ. You will not need to dwell on your well-satisfied soul, but will long to dwell on Him and those things that concern Him. You will become like Him, thinking of and serving others – and it won't be difficult. After all, He promised that His yoke will be easy and His burden light.

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