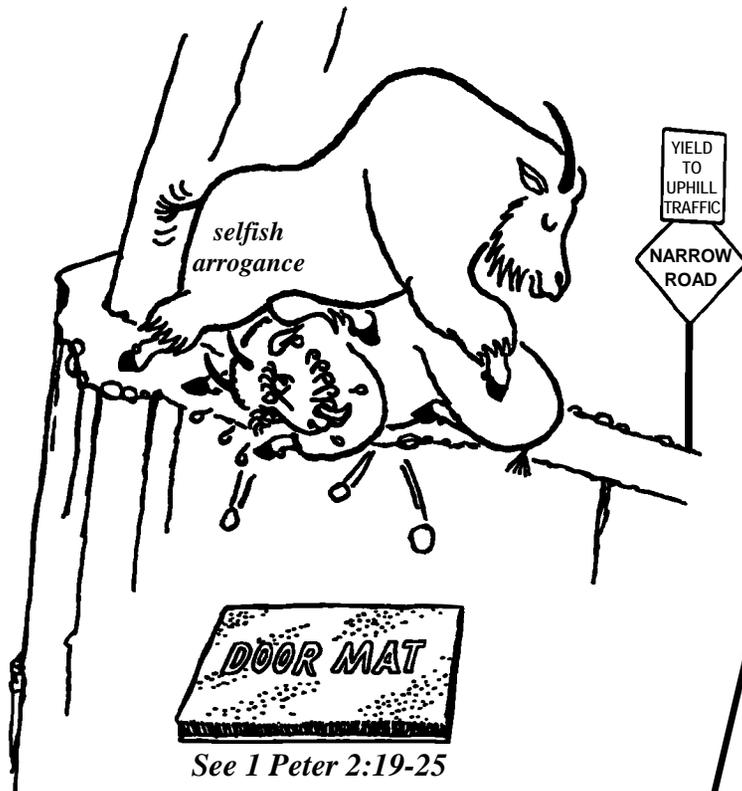
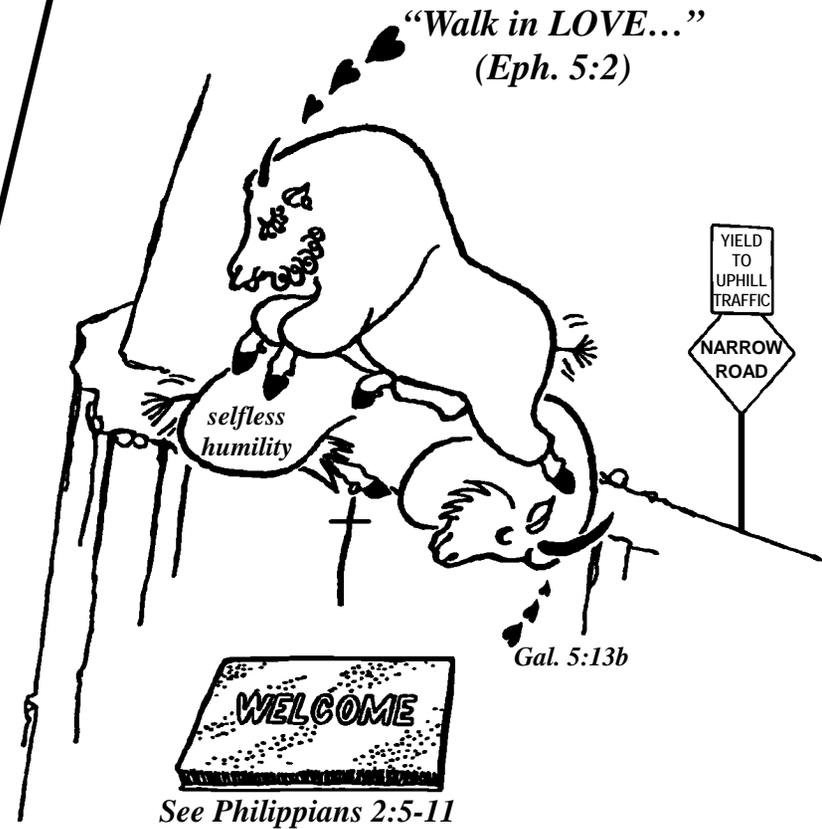


# Welcome Matt

'Matt' 20:28



**'Override'** (Webster)  
"To ride over or across;  
to trample down"



**'Tithasin'** (Greek)  
"One lifts up by laying down"  
John 10:11 & 1 John 3:16

**"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).**

## WELCOME MATT

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45).*

*“Now we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification [building up; lifting up]. For even Christ pleased not Himself...” (Rom. 15:1-3a).*

*“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11).*

*“I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me. Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:14, 15).*

*“The Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative...” (John 10:17, 18).*

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” (Gal. 1:3, 4).*

*“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20).*

*“And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Cor. 5:15).*

*“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).*

*“And walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma” (Eph. 5:2).*

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (Eph. 5:25).*

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7).*

# Gracestoration

## Welcome Matt

Matt. 20:28

*Welcome Matt — setting aside our own interests for the interests of another.*

**SERVING GRACE: Yielding — Giving Way; Lifting Up by Laying Down;  
Giving Oneself in Marriage; Walking In Love**

### Yielding — Giving Way

#### LEFT SIDE Illustration — Door Mat

**An example from God’s creation in nature may help us understand this lesson.** On the left side of the illustration, we see a mountain goat coming down a narrow mountain path when he meets up with another mountain goat coming towards him. He aggressively proceeds and lumbers over the other mountain goat intent on only one purpose — reaching his goal. Both mountain goats are then able to proceed to their destinations, but one was visibly crushed and hurt in the process. Webster’s defines ‘override’ as “to ride over or across; to trample down.” The Reader’s Digest Dictionary defines ‘override’ as “to disregard summarily, as if trampling down, supersede, prevail over, suppress.”

Some familiar idioms in English portray the fallout of this *selfish arrogance*:

“I felt like a **Door Mat**”  
“He ran rough shod over me”  
“I felt walked all over, crushed, trampled”  
“I was hit by a semi/truck”  
“I was hit by a steam roller”  
“Don’t tread on me!”  
“Down-trodden”  
“He’s been on my back, lately.”  
“Get off my back!”



Who is supposed to **yield or give way** to the other? What is the solution to conflict resolution? How do we handle this impasse when, “*An arrogant man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper*” (Prov. 28:25 NASB). What are the rules of the road?

#### **Perhaps we can find some insights from these TRAFFIC SIGNS:**

Colorado Rules of the Road: Narrow Road—Yield to Uphill Traffic. The one headed downhill must yield to the one headed uphill—to the one with the harder climb.

Florida Rules of the Road: “Every driver, motorcyclist, moped rider, bicyclist and pedestrian must do everything possible to avoid a crash.” The law gives the right-of-way to no one. Drivers yield to pedestrians—the larger vehicle to the smaller; the stronger to weaker [more vulnerable].

Germany: All are to YIELD.

Hong Kong: All are to GIVE WAY.

#### RIGHT SIDE Illustration — Welcome Matt

Notice on the right side, the one coming down hill (the larger, the stronger, the one with momentum) stops and lays down so the smaller, weaker and struggling one is able to climb over the top of him. *This is God’s creative design for the mutual survival of mountain goats on narrow mountainous*

*paths*. By instinct the mountain goats know which one is to lay down first in a given situation, thus both are spared. This is a **welcoming** sight, and both are free to move forward with no hassle as shown by the response (shown by hearts). A similar situation exists when exchanging places in a canoe. One person has to bend over so the other person can climb over the top to keep balanced. It only makes sense that the larger does the bending over while the lighter one climbs over the top, thus keeping the boat stabilized. Another example is seen in exchanging places in tribal dugout canoes. One person straddles the sides of the dugout for balance, while the other crawls under between his outstretched legs.

### **Lifting Up by Laying Down**

From Mark 10:42-45 we find Jesus answering the disciples' desire to be first in His kingdom by giving two scenarios: "exercising lordship over" or "being the one that serves." We know what He chose! "*For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*" (Mark 10:45).

**The Apostle John** and the other disciples took awhile to learn this entirely new paradigm. All they wanted was to vie for privileged positions. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus explained His design, "*But whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*" Jesus lived in **selfless humility** for thirty-three years, always pleasing His Father.

**Jesus** continued to teach this same paradigm/design as recorded in subsequent gospels by His disciples: "*I am among you as He that serves*" (Luke 22:27). "*No man takes it [My life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself... [that I might] take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father*" (John 10:18). "*If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honor*" (John 12:26).

**Tithasin- Greek** — "**one lifts up by laying down**" — laying down, depositing, setting aside, laying aside, putting off, allocating, assigning, rendering, committing as a matter of charge. It is from this array of descriptions that we perceive the principle of **self denial**. It is used in the present tense of someone who lays aside his own enjoyment of life, to make the life of another better. The example of selfless humility is seen in John 10:11, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd GIVETH (tithasin— layeth down) His life for the sheep,*" and also in 1 John 3:16, "*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down (tithasin) His life for us: and we ought to lay down (tithasin) our lives for the brethren.*" [Laid-down life [**tithasin**] is used for sheep four other times in John 10, verses 11,15,17,18. Excerpts from: Dr. Ray Jones, *Bread Upon the Water*

**Jesus' Disciples** finally did understand for themselves as we discover in their later writings:

**James:** "*God opposes the proud [selfish arrogance], but gives grace to the humble*" [**selfless humility**] (James 4:6). "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up*" (James 4:10). **Peter:** "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time*" (1 Pet. 5:6). **John:** "*As He is, so are we in this world*" (1 Jn. 4:17). "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 Jn. 4:19).

**The Apostle Paul** also confirms this paradigm in his epistles: "*Now we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification [building up; lifting up]. For even Christ pleased not Himself...*" (Rom. 15:1-3a). "*Imitate me, as I imitate Christ*" (1 Cor. 11:1). "*...I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me*" (Gal. 2:20).

## **Giving Oneself in Marriage**

The **Welcome Matt** illustrations vividly portray the marriage design. In the illustration on the left, it is the female (the weaker vessel) who has been crushed [the female is shown by curled eyelashes, a curly beard, and an earring (smile)]; the illustration on the right shows how the male lays down to lift up the female—he was designed to handle or accept the challenge. This is also gracefully portrayed in couples' or pairs' figure skating. The male takes the lead, bears the weight, lifts her up, and is responsible for her safety, while she leans on him and trusts him to handle her with care. We are awed by seeing this grace in action!

**The Apostle Peter** spoke on marriage in 1 Peter 3:1-9. Verse seven specifically says, “*Husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor [confer dignity, assign value] as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*” We all remain dependent on our Lord for His strength to pour through us as we seek to live out His design for the marriage relationship.

**The Apostle Paul** gave further instructions regarding the marriage example in Ephesians 5:25, “*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.*”

Note Roy Hession’s commentary on Ephesians 5:25: “The husband is required to do something even more humbling [mutual submission, verse 21]; he is to ‘love his wife as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it’ (Eph. 5:25). Christ’s love for the church was a **self-giving** love, and the melting thing about it is that it led the Senior to humble Himself to serve the Junior—to serve the weaker vessel and to make her great, even as Christ did for them. How this strikes at **selfishness** and pride, and how surely must the believer confess it, if it should be manifested!”

**How do we treat one another?** “*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Gal. 5:13). “**One anothering**” is the transfer of resources which results in growth and maturity. The following examples may serve to illustrate the “one anothering” concept so often mentioned in Scripture:*

- The senior serves the junior.**
- The elder leads the younger.**
- The stronger assists the weaker.**
- The expert mentors the novice.**
- The craftsman teaches the apprentice.**
- The husband honors the wife.**
- The wife respects the husband.**

## **Authors Agree**

**Note what other inspired authors have to say about this paradigm shift:**

“We are called to part ways with the hedonistic culture of our times that indulges in and idolizes pleasure, leisure, and luxury. God calls us to walk with Him on the lofty level of **self-sacrifice, self-giving, and self-sharing**, that others be saved and salvaged for His dear sake. *W. Phillip Keller*

“Many of us are interested only in our own goals, and Jesus Christ cannot help Himself to our lives. If we are abandoned to Jesus, we have no ends of our own to serve. Paul became a sacramental [sacrificial] personality; wherever he went, Jesus Christ **helped Himself to his life**. Paul’s idea of service is the same as our Lord’s: “*I am among you as He that serves.*” “*...Ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.*” The delight of sacrifice is that I lay down my life for my Friend, not fling it away, but deliberately **lay my life out for Him and His interests in other people**, not for a cause.”

*Oswald Chambers*

## Walking in Love

The Apostle Paul summed it up, “WALK IN LOVE, just as Christ also LOVED us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma” (Eph. 5:2); and Paul repeats in Galatians 5:13b, “...by **love** serve one another.” Note the hearts above and below the goats on the right side of the card. Another key verse is, “The **love** of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5).

Where we find sacrifice, we find love. “Jesus says, ‘**Love** one another,’ and the clear implication is that laying your life down for another demonstrates love more profoundly than anything else you do or say. Even if you shower hugs, kisses, and declarations of love upon those within your sphere, apparently laying down your life on their behalf speaks the loudest.” *Preston Gillham*

### **Conclusion—How would we describe our attitude?**

#### Left Side Illustration:

**SADitude** — “For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:21).

**BAAAADitude** — “...that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:3).

**MADitude** — “Be ye angry and sin not” (Eph. 4:26).

#### Right Side Illustration:

**GLADitude** — “Serve the Lord with gladness...” (Psalm 100:2).

**LAMB-attitude—KENOSIS (Greek)** — “Let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5); “...took upon Him the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7); “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). He will cultivate a **gratitude attitude** in us!

Look closely on the mountainside under the mountain goats on the right side and you will see a cross, “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 Jn. 3:16 NASB). And also, “He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Cor. 5:15).

You may want to pencil in a cross on the left side illustration under the one suffering wrongfully. The Apostle Peter encourages believers to use Christ as their example when suffering wrongfully and enduring grief [doormat]. Consider this passage in 1 Peter 2:19-25, “For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly, For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth, and while being reviled, He did not revile in return: while suffering, He uttered no threats, **but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously**; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.”

This is our call to a life of entrustment to Him Who judges righteously. Giving one’s all into God’s safe-keeping brings rest and peace. Our Good Shepherd, the Shepherd of our souls, is faithfully looking out for us as we continue to follow in His steps of **selfless humility**.

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**Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the notes and quotes pages, the tri-fold brochure, and by reading the Scriptures on the back of the card.**

## **The Servant Song**

**Brother, let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to  
Let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are brothers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you,  
In the nighttime of your fear,  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony.  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.  
[Mark 9:35 by Richard Gillard]**

“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, tolerant of the weak and the strong, because someday in life you will have been all of these!”

*G. W. Carver*

When Ann Judson, Adoniram's wife, wrote back from the field about how to select new candidates for missionary service, she said, “Humble, quiet, persevering men ... men of amiable, yielding temper, **willing to take the lowest place, to be the least of all and the servant of all**; men who live near God and are willing to suffer all things for Christ's sake without being proud of it.

**Suffering for others** is the price to be paid for spiritual maturity and the highest conformity to Christ in His death and resurrection, “*And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace . . . will Himself restore, establish and strengthen you*” (1 Pet. 5:10).

You remember the story that is told of one of the generals of Cyrus the Great, king of Persia, and the one who overthrew, in God's providence, the mighty Babylonian Empire. One of his generals came home from a campaign and was shocked to find that in his absence his own wife had been arrested and was languishing in prison, charged with treachery against her country, and the trial was to be held that very day. The general hastened to the court of Cyrus, and the guards brought in his own beloved wife. She, pale and anxious, tried to answer the charges against her, but all to no avail. Her husband, standing near, heard the stern voice of the Persian ruler pronounce the death sentence. In a moment, as they were about to drag her away to behead her, he ran forward and threw himself down at the feet of the Emperor. “*O sire,*” he cried, “*not she, but me. Let me give my life for hers. Put me to death, but spare my wife.*” And as Cyrus looked down upon him, he was so touched by his deep devotion and his love for his wife that his heart was softened. He remembered, too, how faithful this servant had been, and he gave command that the wife should go free. She was fully pardoned. As her husband led her out of the room, he said to her, “*Did you notice the kind look in the eyes of the Emperor as he pronounced the word of pardon?*” She said, “*I did not see the face of the Emperor. The only face I could see was that of the man who was willing to die for me.*” “Our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Gal. 1:4). *H.A. Ironside*

“**No man ever paid greater homage to his wife than Mr. Moody. I never met with a happier couple. In every way he deferred to her. She answered all his voluminous correspondence. She was the person to whom he always spoke of his plans and his work. No trouble was too great for him if he could save her any bother or everyday ordinary little troubles.**”

**J. Wilber Chapman**

*Paul said he knew how to be a 'door mat' without resenting it, because the mainspring of his life was devotion to Jesus Christ.*

*Oswald Chambers*

Selfless Humility Paradigm Design:  
Fighting the Other Way

“Two brothers who lived many years ago worked together on their family farm. One brother was married with children, while the other was a bachelor. They worked hard, sharing equally in the profit of the farm. Each had a small storage bin in which they deposited equal amounts of the grain produced on the farm.

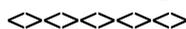
“One day the single brother thought to himself, ‘It’s not right that my brother and I share everything equally, for I’m alone and my needs are simple.’ He decided that each night he would fill a sack with grain from his bin and, unnoticed in the darkness, would quietly dump it into his brother’s bin.

“Meanwhile, the married brother thought to himself, ‘It’s not right that my brother and I share everything equally, for I have my wife and children to care for me in my old age, but he has no one to help him with his future needs.’ So he decided that each night he would quietly fill a sack with the grain from his bin, and pour it into his brother’s bin.

“Until the night some months later when they accidentally bumped into each other during their nocturnal missions of charity, neither brother could understand why his supply of grain never dwindled.

“This (probably fictional) story illustrates important, divine principles which believers may sometimes be prone to forget. We read in 1 John 3:16, ‘Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.’ While there are times when men are called upon to prove the depth of their love for another by dying (John 15:13), an equally strong test of love is to lay down one’s life by living for others, that is, setting aside personal desires to serve others. ‘By love serve one another’ (Gal. 5:13).”

From: *Christian Shepherd*

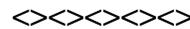


Meeting Others’ Needs

A business acquaintance describes the brilliant marketing practices of Billy Graham:

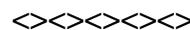
“He’s the best salesman I ever met. He sells salvation—a product no one has ever seen, heard, smelled, touched, or tasted. If his techniques were graded by traditional standards, he would probably snare a C+. He isn’t a particularly glib speaker, nor is he noted for his jokes. He wouldn’t claim to be a great Bible scholar, and he has thousands of competitors. Yet he’s the best in the world at what he does. Why? Because of his dedication to his ‘customers.’ Every action he takes is *designed to meet their needs, not his own.* And it shows.”

*Harvey Mackay in Success*



GRACE will more and more express itself in all our relationships. It will show in the way we treat our friends...If the grace of God has truly touched our lives, we will accept people as they are. There will be no condemning, rejecting, putting people down; no self-righteous superiority; no how-could-yous. As our Lord gave Himself for us, so we will give ourselves for others. “*Freely we have received, freely give*” (Matt. 10:8).

*Joseph R. Cooke*



Selfish Arrogance Cultural Paradigm

Let’s beware, lest we push someone “over the edge!”

