

for others

By Darlene Hepler



Jesus said,

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

(Matthew 20:26–28 NIV.)

Lord, help ME to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for others.

Help ME in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true;
And know that all I do for THEE
Must needs be done for others.

Charles Schulz will long be remembered for his uncanny ability to capture the reality of childhood in his famous comic strip *Peanuts*. One that taught the subtlety of pride depicts Linus and Charlie Brown talking about their plans when they grow up. Linus says, "When I get big I'm going to be a humble little country doctor. I'll live in the city, see, and every morning I'll get up, climb into my sports car and zoom into the country! Then I'll start healing people. I'll heal everybody for miles around!" Then he concludes his speech with, "I'll be a world-famous humble little country doctor."

Even with the very best intentions, it's so easy for us to get sucked up into the whirlwind of pride. We can start out with the most humble objectives, but somehow we always seem to end up stumbling over our own selfish desires and motives. So how can we avoid this wily web of deceiving ourselves into thinking we're something that we really aren't? I think Saint Paul gives us the answer to that dilemma, when he tells us to "consider others better than ourselves" (Philippians 2:3). When you think about it, it's just good sense. If we focus our attention on others, we focus less attention on ourselves.

And when my work on Earth is done,
And my new work in Heaven begun,
May I forget the crown I won,
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be.
Help ME to live for others
That I may live like THEE.

—CD. Meigs