Matthew 20:25-28 NIV

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, 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."

Romans 15:1 HCSB

Now we who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves.

Putting others first is an <u>obligation</u>, <u>given</u> to us by Jesus and <u>rewarded</u> by God.

3 Ways To Practice Altruism:

Give without expectation of repayment

Luke 6:35 NLT

Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

<u>Serve</u> without expectation of <u>recognition</u>

Matthew 6:2-3 NIV

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

Do without expectation of praise

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Matthew 6:1,4,17-21

Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven...Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you...But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you...But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

When we put others first we are <u>walking in the footsteps</u> of Jesus, and when we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, we are on the path of <u>God's greatest blessings!</u>