

The 4th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 10, 2024

“Listening to Jesus ~ True Greatness & the Importance of Servanthood”

Colossians 3:12-17 & Matthew 20:20-34

The world tends to puts _____ ahead of _____—it looks to _____ things to determine their _____, significance, and importance. However, it’s not so much the externals that are important when looking at someone’s life, but rather the significance of their life; the _____ that they’ve had on the world around them.

This is certainly true in the Kingdom of God where _____ is far more important than prominence, _____ more important than quantity, and _____ more important than externals.

The disciples were still thinking in terms of personal _____ and personal distinction; personal success without personal _____. However, they needed to learn that true greatness lies not in _____ or _____ but in _____.

“You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. (Matthew 20:25-27)

To define greatness in terms of servanthood is just as _____ today as it was 2000 years ago.

Jesus doesn’t _____ the notion of greatness, nor one’s pursuit of it, but rather He _____ it.

“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give us His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)

“Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5)

Jesus’ life modelled for us that the primary characteristic of being a servant is the _____ of one’s own will and desire to those of the one you’re serving. It’s a _____ of one’s own rights, desires, priorities, **and** life for the sake of someone else. This requires submission, obedience, and, as I said last week, _____.

Do I have a servant’s heart?

Do I seek to serve others or am I only looking to serve myself?

A SERVANT’S HEART ~ SERVING LIKE JESUS

#1. Serving like Jesus means being _____.

“‘Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!’ Jesus stopped and called them. ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ he asked. They told him, ‘Lord, we want you to give us our eyesight back.’ Jesus felt sorry for them, so he touched their eyes. Their sight was restored at once, and they followed him.” (Matthew 20:31-34)

Almost all of Jesus’ ministry was the result of _____—times when He _____ to respond to someone in need. Jesus didn’t mind being interrupted because He loved people—He had _____ for them—and He knew that His purpose in life was to _____ God by serving others. Jesus saw interruptions as opportunities for _____ and to glorify God.

How do you handle interruptions?

Are they an irritation or are they opportunities to serve?

We have to be open to the _____ opportunities to serve the people that God brings into our life unexpectedly. We have to be willing to be flexible and not _____; open and not closed to the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

3 BARRIERS TO BEING AVAILABLE

- _____ : being caught up in my own _____, dreams, plans, even problems, to care about anyone else.

“Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.” (Philippians 2:4 Msg)

The number one enemy of compassion is _____.

- _____ : in the sense of _____.

“If you wait for perfect conditions you’ll never get anything done. (Eccl 11:4)

- _____ : we can get so busy taking care of _____

that we don't have time to take care of _____.

“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Am I going to spend my time and energy helping to build God's Kingdom or my own kingdom?

Think about your everyday life. How available are you?

#2. Serving like Jesus means having an attitude of _____.

Jesus was constantly giving _____ to God for everything that He was doing.

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

Gladness and servanthood go hand in hand; and we're called to serve, not out of duty, but out of _____; not out of obligation, but out of _____. We serve because God first _____ us.

“It is he who saved us and chose us for his holy work. Not because we deserve it but because that was his plan.” (2 Timothy 1:9)

Like the mother of James and John, we need to check our _____.

The Zebedee's—and the other disciples—were only interested in _____, glory, and _____. Jesus spoke of the cross—and all they wanted was the _____. It's so easy for our motives to get out of line—it's so easy to do things—even good things—for the _____ reasons.

“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17)

Think about your everyday life. How grateful are you?

#3. Serving like Jesus means enduring with _____.

“You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I'm going to drink.” (Matthew 20:22)

The cup was a symbol of _____—James and John wanted glory, but Jesus tells them to be prepared for _____.

“For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well.” (Philippians 1:29)

To suffer for Jesus is a _____ that God gives us.

If we are serious about following Jesus and serving others, we can be certain that we'll face _____, challenges, and _____.

“Therefore, beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Being faithful means _____ in God no matter what happens; it means not _____, no matter how discouraged, tired, hurt, or criticized we are. It means being _____, steadfast, and immovable in the face of challenge and _____. It means trusting in God because we know that the work we do is not done in _____, but has a divine _____.

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.” (John 17:4)

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

“The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

God doesn't care so much about our gifts, talents, abilities, or lack thereof, as much as He does our _____—and He wants us to _____ Him.

Think about your everyday life. How enduring is your faith?

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“He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

Are you trying to increase or decrease?

How do you define greatness?

Do you have a servant's heart?