

Accelerating Our Spiritual Growth, Part 8

November 1, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

Jesus says if we want to be great, if we want meaning, if we want significance, we can have these things by serving.

Service was the life message and life teaching of Jesus:

1. Jesus taught about serving.

Mark 9:34-35 (NIV) ...on the way they [the disciples] had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

In his teaching, Jesus ties greatness to serving.

2. Jesus used stories/parables to illustrate serving.

Luke 10:33-34 (NLT) "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt deep pity. Kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him."

What made the man "good" was that he saw a need and met it.

3. Jesus stated serving as his existence.

Mark 10:45 (NLT) "For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

For Jesus, serving wasn't just a good idea. It was the main idea.

HOW DO WE LIVE A LIFESTYLE OF SERVING?

1. I choose obedience over convenience.

What is the key to receive all of God's benefits? obedience

Matthew 4:19-22 (NLT) Jesus called out to them, "Come, be my disciples..." And they left their nets at once and went with him. A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers...

mending their nets And he called to them to come, too. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

At once and immediately—that is obedience.

Obedience requires me to choose God's way.

John 14:15 (NLT) "If you love me, obey my commandments."

Luke 11:28 (NLT) He replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

2. I look for opportunities to serve.

Begin training yourself how to serve.

Get off the sidelines and into the game.

Matthew 10:42 (NLT) "And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

CHALLENGE:

Does my lifestyle reveal that I serve from obedience?

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?