



PATHS OF LIFE
The Joy of Serving

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Series is **“The Paths of Life”** (what are the things that lead to life?)

Today... **The Joy of Serving.**

I hope the “joy of serving” will be powerfully impressed upon your heart!

May the Holy Spirit convict and convince us that the call to serving is the highest call of all!

To **lay a foundation**, let's look at a few passages of scripture.

Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:44-45

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Phil 2:3-7 (ESV)

Serving is any action that focuses our attention and effort on someone else, for the purpose of blessing them and helping them know and experience a better life.

Serving is offering our resources of time, money, gifts, knowledge, influence and presence for the care, protection, justice and nurture of others.

General thoughts about serving...

Serving is a fundamental orientation for life.

It is not a church program, a fad or a faze. True servants live and breathe this everyday.

Some people orient their life towards pleasure, success or riches.

Servants orient their life towards bringing others joy, encouragement and success!

Their fundamental orientation in every circumstance is "what can I do to help you?"

True service does not require external rewards.

It does not need to know that people see and appreciate the effort.

It does not seek human applause.

It rests contented in its hiddenness.

True service does not choose who to serve based on merit or deservedness.

It does not serve based on mood, as in “do I feel like doing this?”

It does not fear the public stage, nor does it shun the small private settings.

No matter the setting, the true servant simply wants to know:

1. Was the person helped?

2. Did God give His blessing?

Four secrets servants know...

1. Serving is the way of Jesus.

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give! Mark 10:45

- Jesus led by serving. He loved by serving.

- He washed feet. He fed people. He walked to visit and pray for the sick.

- He spent time with people no one else cared for.



2. Serving is synonymous with greatness.

Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Mark 10:43

- When Jesus was required to define greatness he chose the word “servant.”
- It is the act of serving that leads people to become all that God desires for them.
- If you can't serve, you can't lead!
- Your abilities and calling may take you to large and significant public settings, but it will always be built on a platform of serving.
- The most valued and appreciated people are those who serve.
- Who is the greatest in the kingdom?

3. Serving develops our Christian character.

For you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

More loving? Serve your way into being a more loving person.

Less prideful? Serve your way into humility.

A more giving person? Serve your way into being a less selfish person.

Less critical? Serve your way into a more encouraging attitude!

4. Serving is a powerful and life changing dynamic.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant. Phil. 2:3-7

The word “dynamic” as a noun means:

A force that stimulates change or progress

The world moves forward on backs of servants.

It speaks a powerful language.

It says “you matter.” It says you are loved and valued.

It goes beyond shallow platitudes and gets to the heart of tangible acts of kindness.

You only have two choices as to what kind of person you will be.

- a) A consumer. (taker)
- b) A servant. (giver)

May I ask you a question?

Have you ever seen a marriage changed by spouses asking the question, “what are you going to do to make me happy?”

Have you ever seen the poor and the hurting helped by arm's length wrangling and debating over how they got themselves into that mess in the first place?

Have you ever seen a church achieve it's mission by people asking for better and slicker programs that meet my church needs?

No!!!! But I guarantee that:

- **Marriages** have been healed by **serving** one another.
- **Poverty** and homelessness and addiction have been addressed by **serving**.
- **Churches** have experienced godly impact as people asked “what can I do to **serve**?”



Jill Kozak is going to come and share a powerful story about serving from the scripture and give us our practice for the week.

We are exploring the Spiritual Practice of Service.

Service is offering our resources of time, money, gifts, knowledge, influence and presence for the care, protection, justice and nurture of others.

The purpose of service is to share the loving, merciful presence of God in our world. It is carrying out the second greatest commandment “Love your neighbour as yourself”.

Jesus, who is the greatest Servant of all, gives us some very good instruction on service in Luke 10:25-37 as he explains to a teacher of the law who exactly His neighbour is.

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” Luke 10:30-37

This story Jesus told gets at the heart of service.

It’s important to give attention to this story since it’s about the second greatest commandment that God asks of His followers.

There are 4 characters in this story.

The first is the man who fell into unforeseen, unfortunate circumstances.

- This character reminds me that we are all in the same boat of humanity.

At any moment we could be the one in need of the mercy of others, but most often we are like the other 3 men going about our day.

- What is interesting here is that all 3 men start off the same.

They were travelling the same road.

They each saw the man in need...but what happens next?

It is here that the characters choose different paths.

2 walk away from the man, but the 3rd goes to the man.

What makes the difference??

It’s this beautiful word – **COMPASSION**

To be moved in the inward parts, deep emotion that can’t stay inside – it moves out in action.

The Samaritan was filled with compassion.

- What happened with the Priest and the Levite?

These men were supposed to be carrying out the work of God.

- What happened that they decided to pass by on the other side of the road?

For some reason they were not filled with compassion.



- What got in the way of compassion?

When I think about my own life often busyness gets in the way.

- We have busy lives.

We are going places, we quickly make the choice to ignore the person in need.

- Maybe it's attitudes and misconceptions.

These are about the person in need.

(it's their own fault, they just need to get a job, etc.).

- Maybe it's fear.

Not feeling equipped to help.

Can you identify with the actions of the men who passed by?

The truth is, in our busy day to day, we are surrounded by opportunities of service.

They often present themselves in:

- The form of interruptions. - They push us out of our comfort zone.
- They challenge our beliefs and assumptions.

But what if we went about our day and served like the Good Samaritan, filled with compassion?

Notice the steps here:

1) See the person in need.

2) Allow our hearts to be filled with compassion for the person

(examine Psalm 139:23-24)

3) Choose to draw near.

- Gain understanding. - See the person God values and has created.

4) Offer the person in need the resources we have.

(presence, time, money, influence, knowledge, talents).

Although the venue for service can be with some of the wonderful organizations we have in our city like the foodbank, clinic, soup kitchen, Boys & Girls Club, countless – the heart of service is more grass roots and the venue is in our own backyard, our workplace, school, on our way to the store.

What opportunities await us to show the tangible love of God to others in our daily lives?

To genuinely love our neighbour as ourselves?



**I challenge us as a church to Go and do likewise...so...
Here is our exercise for each morning this week:**

1) Ask God to show you the people around you who are in need.

2) Ask God to examine your heart.

Are there any attitudes, behaviours, and beliefs that are taking up space in your heart where compassion belongs.

3) Ask God to fill your heart with compassion.

4) Make the choice to go to the person in need. (hear their story)

5) Offer the resources God has placed in your life

to help the person before you.

Bonus points – Journal what God has revealed to you about Himself and about your relationship with him through the practice of service.

I guarantee you that you will be blown away by what God has for you as you serve others and ultimately the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion:

These points and a follow up video will be on our website.

Let's pray for...

Eyes.

Hearts.

Hands.

