

"SERVICE"

Matt 20:26-27

My Uncle George: He hated to speak – but he was always ready to serve. Our scrip: Jesus speaks about the path of greatness: Service

I. THE MISTAKEN APPROACH

A. Mistaken idea about usefulness/destiny: That it comes from attention

1. If people can see me – I will be important

a. *The idea you can be discovered/get a video on YouTube and you will become a star*

2. We can bring this into the church/kingdom of God

a. *If I can be given a microphone/a title/my name will be announced at conference*

1. *Had a lady say she wanted to help out – "But nothing out the back (kitchen/nursery)" she wanted to be on stage*

B. People who approach life/ministry like this – it's unhealthy

1. They become filled with pride:

a. By being seen/getting attention b. By never having to humble themselves – deal with their pride

2. They cause conflict:

a. Other people don't want to work with them b. They are fighting for attention – at any cost

3. They hurt the work of God:

a. Things don't get done b. People aren't helped c. Damage can actually be done

4. They hurt their future: Someday they will discover that they need lots of people – they need lots of help

a. You reap what you sow!

II. THE PATH TO USEFULNESS

A. True usefulness always begins with servanthood

1. This is what Jesus said brings greatness/brings usefulness

a. **Matt 20:26-27** *But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

2. This is the Bible path of great men

a. *Moses servant Joshua* b. *Elisha Ministered to Elijah/poured water on his hands!* c. *David served Saul* d. *Timothy: he has served with me in the Gospel* e. *Acts 6: 7 men who helped serve food to widows* f. *Deacon: One who serves/waits/attendant*

B. Look at the essence of service

1. It is based on tasks that need doing: There are a 1000 things that need to be done in church/outside

a. Responding when asked to help b. Responding when a need is announced

c. But the real need is men who has an eye for need: What needs doing? How can I help?

2. It involves hidden service: Most of the work that needs to be done – no one will see/applaud

a. *There were no crowds to see or cheer: Ladies and gentlemen...washing feet today; Jesus Christ!*

C. This is essential for disciples

1. This is a test of our character: Why do you do what you do? For attention – or b/c it is right?

a. If you're getting recognition/pats on the back – it's easy to do for the wrong reasons

b. Hidden service helps deal with our pride

2. This is how we grow: Everything you do – is for the future!

a. When you learn to serve in one area – you can serve in other areas/larger areas

b. When you learn to meet needs in one area – that is actually what all of ministry involves

III. THE LARGER LIFE

A. Jesus says there is the possibility of larger usefulness and impact

1. Great: Mega – you become larger Chief: First – important

a. Service allows a larger work to be accomplished

b. Service opens the door for God to raise us up to larger tasks

1. God sees our service – and finds servants to fulfill larger tasks

Our building project: The needs and opportunities for service are going to multiply. There will be mess/there will be more tasks. It will be harder for our older people. There will be more confusion for visitors. I need disciples who will look for ways to be useful/alleviate the strain and be a blessing for others.