

## "SERVICE"

**Matt 20:26-27**

*My Uncle George: He hated to speak – but he was always ready to serve. Our script: 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/an 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.*