

Remnant Life Church
Intervention Teaching Series
Servanthood
Week 8
“The Privilege of Serving”

Review:

- In this 8-week series on servanthood, we have examined the following:
 - It began with the understanding that serving begins in the heart
 - We then looked at the perfect servant: Jesus Christ
 - Then dealing with the excuses so often given when we don't serve
 - We then talked about the heart of hospitality
 - Followed by the blessing of hospitality
 - We then looked at the feeding of the 5000 and serving out of compassion
 - Finally, Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and serving out of humility
 - We conclude the series this morning with the privilege of serving

Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

The life of Jesus could have been one of control, servitude by the masses, and unrivaled power.

- Instead, Jesus came as a humble servant
 - First, a servant of His Father
 - Then to those who He loved and His Father had entrusted to Him

Why is serving not always seen as a privilege?

- Because the life we live is one that contains struggle and turmoil
- The spirit nature in our lives is always battling with the flesh nature
- Paul writes a great deal to the churches regarding the spirit and the flesh
 - **Gal 5:16-17** - *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*
 - **I Cor 15:50** - *I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*
- IOW – there is no life in Christ without the Spirit of God in your life
 - Serving is not a substitute for surrendering your life to Christ
 - Goodness and kindness are not salvation
 - Only faith in Jesus Christ saves your soul
 - The kindness you show is an outpouring of His love given to you
- The flesh nature is focused on self-gratification, self-preservation, and self-promotion
- The Spirit is about humility, a loving heart, and serving others
 - But serving one another is not about concepts and the theology of it; it is doing it.
 - The posture of humility and the change of heart in a person is not something taught in a church setting; it is experienced through action

- Master Sergeant Randall was faced with a choice. He could lecture and instruct his new army recruits about hypothermia from the comfort of a classroom. Or, he could take them to a pool filled with freezing water and share the experience with them. He knew that to fully grasp the condition's impact fully, they needed to feel and see hypothermia's effects, not just hear about them from a warm classroom.

To fully understand the privilege of serving means getting involved – you need to get in the pool

- Begin by asking God to present you with opportunities.
 - We have some here
 - But it is not about joining activities only; it is about creating them as well
 - What has God laid on your heart?
 - Few experiences present the privilege of serving like leading an activity yourself
- Keep your eyes open for that prayer to be answered
 - But the only way you can see those chances to serve is if you take your eyes off of yourself
 - Humility takes your attention away from self and puts it on others
- The privilege of serving comes from a heart that is filled with compassion
 - It is a life given to helping where needed – demonstrating hospitality where needed
 - It is refusing to make excuses when opportunities present themselves
 - It is wanting to serve with no expectation of recognition or reward
 - It is a willingness to abandon our consumeristic attitudes and become servants for God and His people

In Greek mythology, the story is told of Zeus and Hermes coming down to earth for a brief period of time disguised as poor slaves. They did this in order to hide themselves, and to get an understanding of the level of devotion people gave them. Once they found out what they wanted to know, they threw off their rags and revealed themselves in all of their Olympian splendor. The story is thought to be the precursor, and the inspiration for the creation of the Clark Kent revealed as Superman storyline. The mild outward appearance actually being a disguise.

But listen now to Paul's description of Jesus – not a mythological story by the truth of God's Word -

Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Phil 2:6-8)

- Jesus did not merely take on the outward form or appearance of a servant
- In that passage, Paul uses the same term (the very nature) to describe both Jesus' servanthood and His Godhood.
 - The form; in the fashion
 - Not just covered but became that very thing

- When Jesus came in the form of a servant, he was not disguising who God is. Rather, He was revealing who God is.
- Jesus did not serve in spite of the fact that He is God
- Jesus came to this earth as a servant precisely because He is God, and the presence of God in our lives creates in us a heart of love to then serve others just as He did.