

# SERVING OTHERS

LOF1

TODAY WE'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT ONE THE MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSE THAT GOD HAS CREATED US AND CALLED US FOR.

2 TIMOTHY 1:9

THE POWER OF GOD WHO HAS SAVED US AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE WHICH WAS GIVEN TO US IN JESUS CHRIST BEFORE TIME BEGAN.

4 SPECIFIC WORDS THAT ARE SPOKEN OVER OUR LIVES....BEFORE TIME EVEN BEGAN.

- HE HAS **SAVED** US
- HE HAS **CALLED** US  
(WITH A HOLY CALLING....NOT JUST ACCORDING TO OUR GOOD WORKS.)
- HE HAS **PURPOSED** US
- HE HAS **GRACED** US.

DESIGNED BETWEEN GOD'S **SALVATION** AND GOD'S **GRACE** IS CALLING AND PURPOSE.

- CALLING IS WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS. ITS WHAT YOU DO.
- PURPOSE IS WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR HEART. ITS WHAT YOU LOVE.

AND ULTIMATELY ITS ALL ABOUT HIM.

AND IT IS THROUGH SERVING THAT WE FULFILL OUR CALLING AND PURPOSE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.

The **LOCAL CHURCH** is the first institution our Lord Jesus established upon this earth. He is the FOUNDER and FOUNDATION of His Church.

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,  
<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,  
<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,  
<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## 1. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

- Jesus came to SERVE.
- He didn't come to demand others in serving Him. His nature is to serve.

**Mark 10:45 (NKJV) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

Jesus did NOT come all the way down to earth and think....

*"Finally, I can come and reveal myself, so they can worship Me, and glorify the KING!"*

- In fact He came unannounced, live low-profile as normal person,
- and He disciplined people not through anything but SERVING them:
- Teaching them, Minister Healing to People, Feeding them, Washed their feet, even served obediently to His death on the Cross!!

**JESUS IS OUR MODEL** when it comes to serving others.

He did not come with a sense of ENTITLEMENT

(It's my right to be worshipped, it's my right to be served.....)

But He came with only one mission.....**to SERVE.**

He came down to earth in the most humble form of human anyone can have.

He modelled it first for us throughout His time on earth by humbly serving, ministering, feeding, building people.

## **2. TO BE THE GREATEST LEADER IS TO BE A SERVANT.**

- The Kingdom of God is the Upside-down Kingdom.
- The Leadership culture of this world is to invest a lot of personal effort into obtaining a title or position.
- The Leadership culture of this world is to keep "lording" over others, while the **LEADERSHIP CULTURE OF JESUS IS TO SERVE.**

### **Luke 22:24-27**

**"Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.**

**25 Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.'**

**26 But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.**

**27 Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves."**

Jesus says...**IF YOU WANT TO BE THE GREATEST, YOU SHOULD BE A SERVANT.**

**YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL ONLY BE REFLECTED BY YOUR SERVANTHOOD.**

Everyone wants to be great - everyone aspires to the idea of attaining GREATNESS.

But the way the world define and achieve Greatness is totally the opposite of how it works in the Kingdom of God.

Normally we look at **GREAT MEN AND WOMEN** as those who have the AUTHORITY (in high position), who have the MONEY AND POWER.

The world thinks the only way to advance / get on top is to somehow PUSH OTHERS DOWN so they can RISE ABOVE THEM --- most people look for Shortcuts to get ahead.

Jesus said that in his kingdom **THE FIRST WILL BE LAST AND THE LAST WILL BE FIRST** (Matt. 20:16).

The Word of God says it plainly: **IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT, SERVE**.  
It's how Jesus modelled it for us.

Never underestimate the power of **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**.

In the kingdom of God, **THE WAY UP IS DOWN**.

The road to reaching the heights of our dreams and visions for the future begins on the dusty ground of servanthood.

And Servanthood is the QUALITY that will move you from the **ORDINARY TO THE EXTRAORDINARY**.

### **3. THE CHURCH IS ONE BODY WITH MANY PARTS.**

Each part of the body is DEPENDENT upon each other to be completed.

1 Corinthians 12:14-21 (NLT)

"Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.

19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part!

20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.

21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

- God made each one of us with UNIQUE TALENTS, PERSONALITIES, AND SKILL SETS.

- For a PURPOSE.

Our body is made up of so many different parts: eyes, ears, hands, feet, let alone all the organs inside.

- Because every single one of it carry its own function and purpose to make up for a whole body....
- Imagine our body is made up of only 1 part, all eyes.... Wow that's freaky
- Imagine our body is made up of only feet.....many feet..... We can run fast probably but running nowhere or only crashing everywhere.

That is God the master-creator had a purpose of every single part of it.

- Because alone these pieces aren't very useful, but together we create something beautiful and powerful.
- Each one of them serves particular Purpose. And they complement one another.
- And together they achieve greater purpose.

**“WHAT I AM PART OF, IS BIGGER THAN THE PART I PLAY.”**

**WE LIVE TO BE PART OF A MOVEMENT THAT IS BIGGER THAN OURSELVES!!**

- **Alone we can make a difference.**
- **But TOGETHER, we can make a BIG DIFFERENCE!!**

#### **4. EVERYONE HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE.**

**1 Corinthians 12:22-26 (NLT)**

**In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.**

**23 And the parts we regard as less honourable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts which should not be seen,**

**24 while the more honourable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honour and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.**

**25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.**

**26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad.**

- Some parts of the body that seem weakest..... like our **Toe** for example, oh its so small compared to a liver....
- Man you cannot walk or function properly when your toe is broken / injured.

- Imagine you say, oh nose is one of the smallest things....its no big deal, you cannot enjoy the smell of the coffee, you cannot savour every single meal that you have, you cannot smell the flowers during spring.
- Your life would be plain without it.

Same thing with the church....with **the BODY OF CHRIST**....

- There are those who have roles within the church that is not seen in the public eye that has a more honourable part to play.
- You don't get to see them on stage, some of you don't even know their name.....
- But without them, the church does not function.....
- Just like the heart (you don't see it from outside) but they play the most important role.....without it, the whole body shuts down.
- They are the **"unseen heroes"** of THE MOVEMENT CHURCH we call them.
- Everyone in the church /Body of Christ is **connected** to one another whether they interact with each other or not.
- Every role, every single thing that you do is **SIGNIFICANT**.
- From the carpark welcome team, to greeter shaking hands, to usher opening the door, serving coffee and tea in the foyer, setting up early in the morning (so people feel welcome feel like home), the singers, the van drivers, the lighting, Kids team....
- Each volunteer, each ministry is as significant!
- They all make up the whole church experience.
- The Kids team especially had to miss the Sermon just to care and disciple our kids, so we can enjoy the worship experience..... can we give them a clap of honour?!

**Ephesians 4:16 (The Voice)**

He joins and holds together the whole body with its ligaments providing the support needed so each part works to its proper design to form a **healthy, growing, and mature body that builds itself up in love.**

When each of us serve one another....

we would be providing the support each other needs in order to become a **HEALTHY, GROWING, AND MATURING BODY** that builds itself up in love.

DON'T HOLD YOURSELF BACK THINKING....

- *'ohhh I don't know what I would do....*
- *"I don't have any special skills to contribute"*
- *"The church doesn't need me"*
- *"There are other people better than me....."*

DON'T LET ALL THAT THOUGHTS STOP US PURSUING WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO.

The fact is,

**GOD DOESN'T CALL THE EQUIPPED, HE EQUIPPES THE CALLED.**

God used men and women with similar doubts to change the course of history.

- **Moses** didn't think he was a leader or speaker, but God worked through Moses to bring Israel out of slavery.
- **David** was the youngest (and therefore most insignificant) of all his brothers, but God worked through David to defeat a giant and eventually made him a king.
- **Paul** used to kill Christians before he met Jesus, but he went on to become one of the most highly-regarded and prolific writers/church planters in history.

**GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR AVAILABILITY THAN YOUR CAPABILITY.**

Is there anybody today want to say,

**GOD, I AM NOT CAPABLE.....**

**BUT I AM AVAILABLE !!**

## **5. WE ARE CALLED TO BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD THROUGH SERVING OTHERS**

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD THROUGH SERVING OTHERS**

**1 PETER 4:10-11**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms..... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

### **THE BLESSINGS OF SERVING:**

- **SERVING ALLOWS US TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP OUR GIFTS.**

You'd be surprised that most of the times we will sharpen and discover our true calling and gift by doing.

You don't have to be perfect (have the skills) to start, but you got to start to be better.

As you obey into serving and stepping into the call of God....

You will see that God will in turn **develop** and **multiply** it.

Just like the Parables of the Talents....

Those who put it work, God multiplies.

- **SERVING SHAPES US TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS.**

We **shift our focus off of ourselves onto others** through serving.

We allow God to **develop our characters to take on more Christlike characters.**

We learnt about **humility**, we practice **honour**, we get rid of **selfishness** in us, we learnt about **patience**, how to deal with difficult people / handle frictions too sometimes.

- **SERVING IS A FORM OF WORSHIP TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US.**

To share the love and grace that we have been given.

- **SERVING SURROUNDS US WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS WHO HELP US FOLLOW JESUS.**

When we're working side by side with other people...

There's **connection**, there's **fellowship**, there's **discipleship**.

This was part of God's plan for how the church is supposed to work.

That's why **Hebrews 10:24-25** instructs us to "**spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another**"

It also increases our faith when we rub it against one another.

### **What are the GIFTS that you has given you?**

God says "*I want you to use it to SERVE OTHERS.*"

Those who are faithful with little / what's been given to them...they'll be trusted with

More.

If you say....I want to serve...but I don't know HOW? What Should I do?

Ask yourself these:

### **WHERE DO I START TO SERVE?**

- **WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?** (your strength, skills)  
Eg. singing / musical skills, management skills, details,
- **WHAT ARE YOU MOSTLY INTERESTED ABOUT?**  
Eg. Creative arts, Spreadsheets / numbers, Events, talking to People, Community / social engagement, Kids, etc.
- **WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW THAT FRUSTRATES / ANNOYS ME?**  
Most likely that is exactly where God has called you, that is where you can help and add value.

Some people stop at complaining: about the music, about the multimedia, about the ushers....etc.

If they can notice what's wrong it, they can tell what needs to be fixed....

And most likely that's where God wants you to serve and add value in that area.

- God wants us not to point out the problem
- God calls us to be part of the SOLUTION!

GOD HAS GIVEN EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US A GIFT.

TO ADD VALUE, TO EDIFY , TO BUILD THE HOUSE OF GOD.

LET'S PUT THEM INTO USE, AND SEE WHAT GOD CAN DO **THROUGH** YOU AND **IN** YOU.

Because in Kingdom of God....

- The way up is down.
- And if you desire to be used greatly by God -- start by serving and be a faithful steward of the gifts God has given us.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- ***IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN SERVING IN ANY FORM -- WHAT GIFT / CALLING DO YOU THINK GOD HAS GIVEN INTO YOU THAT YOU CAN START WITH?***
- ***IF YOU HAVE BEEN SERVING -- WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD WANTS YOU TO LEARN / GROW IN CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER THROUGH THE ACT OF SERVING?***