

Serving Matters

What's In It For Me?

Family Matters | August 11, 2024

Philippians 2:5-8—*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours 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. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Matthew 25:40—*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

MAIN POINT

You will never serve Jesus if you refuse to serve _____.

SERVING MATTERS

1. Serving _____ shows my trust in Jesus.

Romans 12:17-21 (NLT)—*Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*

2. Serving _____ communicates who is important to me.

Matthew 25:40—*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

3. Serving _____ is a timeless testimony.

John 13:1-17—*Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

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All verses quoted in English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

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STUDY GUIDE: 8/11/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why is community often challenging, yet worth pursuing? How do small groups reflect the importance of community as designed by God?
2. In what ways can the struggles within marriage be an opportunity for growth? How does the example of Jesus inform our approach to serving others, even when it's difficult?
3. Why do relationships sometimes drive us crazy, and how can that be part of God's design? How can difficult relationships make us more like Jesus?
4. How does serving others demonstrate our trust in Jesus, especially when it's not easy? Can you share a time when serving someone felt challenging but ultimately deepened your faith?
5. Reflect on Philippians 2:5-8. How does Jesus' example of humility and service challenge our natural tendencies? What practical steps can we take to follow His example in our daily relationships?
6. Why is it important to serve those who may be difficult to love, and how does that reflect God's love? How does Jesus' willingness to serve even Judas inspire us to serve others without discrimination?