

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 33

How Real Servants Act

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

God deserves my best.

- 1) **Assess your Gifts and Abilities**
- 2) **Consider your Passions and Personality**
- 3) **Examine your Experiences and the Lessons you have learned**

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

• Galatians 6:4 (MESSAGE)

- 4) *Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that.*

We all are responsible to do certain things, but we can really sink ourselves into doing the things that we excel at

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

How can I make the best use of what God has given me?

Working in your most productive areas is the best use of what God gave you

- We serve God by serving others
- How does the world define “greatness”?
 - Power
 - Possessions
 - Prestige
 - Position
- If you have several personal servants, for example, then you must be great

- How does Christ define “greatness”
- Mark 10:43 (MESSAGE)
 - 43) It’s not going to be that way with you. **Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.**
- It’s this culture, acting like a Servant isn’t a very popular concept
- Jesus measured greatness in term of service, not status
- God determines greatness by how many people you serve, not how many serve you
- Have you noticed that thousands of books have been written on leadership, but very few on servanthood
- Everybody wants to lead, but no one wants to be a servant
- Assessing your gifts and abilities, considering your passions and personality and examining your experiences is very important in determining how you can best serve God
 - But, no matter what you come up with... You have to have the Heart of a Servant
- God designed you for service, not self-service
- Without the Heart of a Servant, you will be tempted to use God’s gifts to you for personal gain
- Without the Heart of a Servant, you will be tempted to use God’s gifts to you as an excuse to get out of meeting other needs
- God often tests our Hearts by asking us to serve in ways that are the opposite of our Abilities, Passions, and Personalities
- Like the Good Samaritan, if you see a man fall in a ditch, God expects you to help him out
 - You can’t say, “I don’t have the gift of service, I’m really not the best person for that job.”
 - God may be calling you to do something, if there is no one gifted around
- Your primary service should be in the area that you are gifted and passionate about, but your secondary service is wherever you are needed at the moment
- Your Servant’s Heart reveals your Maturity

- How can you tell if you have a Servant's Heart?

1) Real Servants make themselves available to serve

- Servants don't fill up their time with other pursuits that limit their availability
- If you only serve when it's convenient to YOU, you're not a Real Servant
- Real Servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient to them
- Are you available to God anytime?
- Can He mess up your plans without your becoming resentful?
- Servants don't get to choose when they get to serve
- Being a Real Servant means giving up the right to control your schedule
- If you remind yourself at the beginning of everyday that you are Servant, then the interruptions won't upset you as much

2) Real Servants pay attention to needs

- Servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others
- We miss many opportunities to serve, because we lack sensitivity and spontaneity
- Be sensitive or aware of what people are going through around you
- Be spontaneous in being able to drop everything and help
- Great opportunities to serve never last long
- You may only get one chance to serve that person, so take advantage of it

3) Real Servants do their best with what they have

- *"I would be happy to pass out pamphlets if we had a good one! All of these are so poorly written, apply solely to English people, and are out of date!"*
- Real Servants don't make excuses or wait for better circumstances
- If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done
- God expects you to do what you can, with what you have, where you are
- Less-than-perfect Service is always better than good intentions

4) Real Servants do every task with equal dedication

- Whatever they do, Real Servants do it with all their heart
- The size or importance of the task is irrelevant
- You are never too important for menial tasks
- God does not exempt anyone from the mundane
- It doesn't matter how talented you are in a certain area, and how much you get done in that area... If the trash needs to go out, it needs to go out!
- Small tasks often show a big heart
- Great opportunities often disguise themselves in small tasks

5) Real Servants are faithful to their jobs

- Servants finish their tasks, fulfill their responsibilities, keep their promises and complete their commitments
- They don't leave a job half done, and they don't quit when they get discouraged
- They are trustworthy and dependable
- Don't put your Brothers and Sisters in a bad position because you didn't prepare, didn't show up, or didn't even call to say you weren't coming
- Real Servants can be counted on by others

6) Real Servants maintain a low profile

- Servants don't promote or call attention to themselves
- God doesn't like people who serve merely to impress people with how spiritual they are
- Real Servants don't serve for the approval or applause of others
- Real Servants are content with quietly serving in the shadows
- Real Servants often do things anonymously because they know that people have a hard time accepting service without praising you
- It's the difference between giving a wonderful, large, expensive gift in the middle of the shower, and getting oohs and aahs from everyone, vs. dropping it off on their door without a note attached

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

We serve God by serving others.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

- Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

42) And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

Which of the six characteristics of a Real Servant is the biggest challenge for me?