

# 3G

## Lesson Fourteen: Serving

We are in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> G. This last G stands for Go. In the last lesson we looked at how God has uniquely created us and gifted us to serve Him and build up the body of Jesus. Today, we are going to look at how we are to put those gifts to work for Him.

That's Nice!

What is the nicest thing that someone has done just to serve you? \_\_\_\_\_

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A couple of winters ago, my oldest daughter, Kathryn came into my office where Lysandra and I were working and volunteered to go and shovel her grandma's steps so that she could make it to church. She wasn't asked to do it. There was nothing in it for her. She did it just to be a help to someone in need.

Now let me just say this right off the bat, she doesn't get that from me. That's all from Lysandra! But that is the way that all of us should be treating one another. We are to be constantly thinking of ways that we can serve each other and the people who come to our church. They should feel right away that Beachside is a place that loves them and is here for them. What is one thing that you can do to make people feel loved and accepted at our church? \_\_\_\_\_

Like-minded

When I talk about serving, I like to start with Paul's teaching in Philippians 2. Here is what he says in verses 5 and 6, "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," Paul wants us to have correct thinking in the area of service, so he tells us that we are to think like who? \_\_\_\_\_

Let's remind ourselves of just who Jesus is. He is, was, and always will be God. As God Jesus had the right to do whatever He wanted to do while here on this earth. He could have forced everyone to worship and serve Him. But He didn't choose to do that.

Look what He chose to do. John 13:4-5 tells us, "(Jesus) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him." What did Jesus choose to do for His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

He gets up and takes off those outer garments. Those outer garments that represented His authority. And in its place, He picks up a towel and begins to wash the disciples' feet. Washing feet was a job that was reserved for the lowest of servants, but that was exactly what Jesus did for them. Think about the disciples whose feet Jesus was washing. Peter would soon deny Him 3 times, Judas would betray Him, and all of the disciples would forsake Jesus and run away. And yet Jesus chose to serve them anyway.

We don't serve people based upon whether or not they are worthy, we serve because we have been commanded to serve. Husbands, you are to serve your wife no matter what she says and does. Or maybe more

accurately what she doesn't do or say. As a husband I am supposed to serve Lysandra. I am supposed to serve my kids as their father. That doesn't mean that our whole family revolves around the kids, but we are to humble ourselves to serve others. Teenagers, Jesus didn't say serve your parents if you agree with everything that they say and do. He said serve one another. We want to make all of these excuses about why we don't have to serve someone. There is no acceptable excuse, just serve.

## What's Your Reputation?

That is the example that Jesus set. Continuing on in Philippians 2, Paul writes in verses 7 and 8, "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."

It tells us that He made Himself of no reputation. Remember in John 13, Jesus took off His outer garments. What did those outer garments represent? \_\_\_\_\_ So, He set aside His position of authority and took upon Him the form of a servant. That's when He picked up a towel and a basin of water and washed the disciples' feet. He humbled Himself and as His followers we are to humble ourselves. We have too much pride in our hearts. We believe that we are above certain things. Jesus didn't. According to these verses, how far was Jesus willing to go to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

Look what Matthew records for us in chapter 20 verses 27 and 28, "and whoever would be first among you must be your servant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Here these guys are arguing over who is the greatest and Jesus says if you really want to be great then you need to be a servant. Jesus didn't come to be served; He came to serve. And the way that He served was to give His life to redeem mankind. As Paul wrote, "he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

## Just Like Jesus

I want you to pay attention to these two words that Matthew wrote in chapter 20, "even as..." He is emphasizing that we are supposed to be just like Jesus. And that is exactly what Jesus said in John 13:14-15, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

Jesus set the example for each and every one of us. It is the pattern that you and I are to follow. If we do not follow the example that He laid out for us, in essence we are saying that we are greater than Jesus. And Jesus made it clear that we are not greater than He is when He said this in John 13:16, "Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him."

The servant, that's you and I, is not greater than His Lord. Jesus puts us in our proper place. A lack of serving others means that we have exalted ourselves as Lord of our lives. You are not greater than Jesus and neither am I! But we act like we are when we refuse to serve those who are around us.

Then Jesus closes this conversation with the byproduct of a life of service to others in John 13:17, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." There is blessing in serving others. You should find joy in serving your spouse. You should find joy in serving your siblings. You should find joy in serving your brothers and sisters in Jesus. You should find joy in serving those who are outside the faith.

## Conclusion

Do you live your life to serve others? \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus did. Do you think that you are better than Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ What is one thing that you can do today to serve someone around you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is something that you can do to serve at church? \_\_\_\_\_

Start with that and then dedicate yourself to serving others today!