



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Spiritual Disciplines: The Way of Serving

Speaker: Matthew Manno, NextGen Pastor

Scripture: Mark 10:34-45

and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.”

So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared.”

And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (NKJV)

Sermon Outline:

The spiritual life is one that is not quick but takes time to grow, where we need to come back to time and time again. A spiritual discipline is a practice that opens us up to God’s grace and trains us to love well. It positions us to live within God’s love and offer that to the world around us. You can’t earn God’s love by practicing spiritual disciplines, for you have already earned God’s love.

Many things can come to mind when we hear the word “service.” A couple of the things we might think about could include a food service, a delivery service or someone’s military service. While these are all great types of service, how many of us think about the relationship between serving and greatness?

The world and our culture’s definition of greatness is a moving target. The biggest reason that greatness appeals to us is that it comes with recognition and fame. We might think of the G.O.A.T – Greatest of All Time. The greatest sport, athlete, singer, musician, food, school – the list can go on and on. We all try to strive for greatness.

In today’s scripture, we see James and John asking Jesus for this type of greatness. They do not just want a seat next to Jesus but are looking to be sat at the seats of highest honor. They want to secure their place in His glory without having to deal with humiliation and shame but to be known for what they do. All the disciples were striving for this type of greatness. Jesus points out the way of the world and how the rulers of that time ran the world. He lets the disciples know that the ones who will be great are the ones who serve and become servants.

Our world today is not much different. The world’s idea of greatness is one where we act as though everyone is a means to an end. If we are going to be followers of Jesus, then we need to take up serving one another. True service always leads to God’s definition of greatness, and it also leaves the one being served better off than when you got there.

Self-righteous Service: comes through human effort
True Service: comes out of a deepening connection with God

Self-righteous Service: focuses on the big deal
True Service: focuses on the small things

Self-righteous Service: wants a reward
True Service: content with being hidden

Self-righteous Service: subject to how we feel
True Service: serves because there's a need

Self-righteous Service: fractures community
True Service: builds community

Our call is to do for others what Jesus has done for us – everywhere we go.

The spiritual discipline of service produces humility in us, and living from a place of service helps us grow in humility. It is vital for us to grow in humility because it produces a change in us.

Serving is not going to save you, Jesus did that on the cross. Service will transform you to live more like Christ every day. Serving is the way to greatness that Jesus is inviting us into.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Matt Manno, NextGen Pastor, continues our summer series on Spiritual Disciplines. Today Pastor Matt explores The Way of Serving and how this important discipline can help us step into God's definition of greatness.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did you grow up in a home where you experiencing seeing your family members serve others? Was this something that was part of your life? Or did you grow up in a home where the focus was on your family and everyone striving for recognition and fame? Today, are you someone who offers your time and service to others? Or are you focused on yourself, continuing to strive for recognition and fame in your life? Find time this week to sit with God offering up wherever you are today and asking for his wisdom regarding your next steps.
3. How do you feel when you hear that if we are going to be followers of Jesus, we need to take up serving together? When you read about self-righteous service and true service, where do you see yourself in these areas? Find time this week to journal about where you see yourself and offer this up to God, being honest with yourself and God.
4. What is your motivation to be of service? Does your obedience to God motivate you to serve from a place of love? There is no shortage of ways to serve: in your family, your community, at your workplace, in one of the ministries at New Life. The question is are you willing to respond the way the Jesus is calling you to serve in his Word? The invitation is for you to grab a towel and become a servant like our Lord and Savior did.