



GrowN
Week 10: THE Path of GrowN – A Servants Heart
November 15th, 2023

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 9/13 th - The WHY(God's Roles) | 10/11 th – Why Suffering? | 11/15 th – A Servants Heart |
| 9/20 th – The Payback(P.B.A. Prodigal.God's Grace means..) | 10/18 th – Why Righteous? | 11/22 nd – Thanksgiving |
| 9/27 th –The Power in Community | 10/25 th – Why Prayer | 11/29 th – ADVENT |
| THE Path of GrowN | 11/1 st – Poor in Spirit | 12/6 th – WNC Tmas Party |
| (Sp. Disciplines -j 8 weeks) | 11/8 th – The Problem of Sin | 12/ 13 th – Family Worship |
| 10/4 th – Meet the Bible | | |

[Week ? = Understanding the Kingdom of God????]

Series Resources: How People Grow by Cloud/Townsend and Cloud, H., & Townsend, J. (2009). *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*. Zondervan. Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

Week 2: Bailey, K. E. (2005). *The Cross and the Prodigal: Luke 15 through the Eyes of Middle Eastern Peasants* (Second Edition, pp. 42–44). IVP Books.

Handouts:

Week 1 – God's Roles Chart. Week 2 – Community. Week 4 – The Bible. Week 5- Suffering Verses. Week 7 -Prayer H.O. Week 8 – Devotional

GrowN Concept #1: Quadrant Growth

Luke 2:52 HCSB *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.*

Jesus grew: Intellectually ● Physically ● Spiritually ● Socially

GrowN Concept #2: The Inheritance of Reconciliation

The Long-term Goal of GrowN: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. NLT

***18* And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him.** ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

YES: Reconciling = Living your Life OUTLOUD with others so they may see Jesus in action.

NO: Reconciling ≠ You are going to Hell if you don't accept Jesus. Stop SINNING! Never saying anything. God gives you the abundant life – including lots of \$\$\$ - here on earth.

THE Payback: I have earned this, God ↔ God cannot love me because...I have sinned so...

GrowN Concept #3: God is FOR me – There is no “God cannot love me because...”

Romans 8:31-32

What then are we to say about these things?^(C) If God is for us, who is against us?^(D)

³² He did not even spare His own Son^(E) but offered Him up for us all;^(F)

how will He not also with Him grant us everything? HCSB

GrowN Concept #4: God will PROVIDE for me - I do not have to EARN His love.

Matthew 6:33 (25 – don't worry about your life)

But seek first the kingdom of God^(A) and His righteousness,^(B) and all these things will be provided for you.^(C)

GrowN Concept #5: THE Power in Community

I. The Power of Relationships in Community II. The Power of Acceptance in Community III. The Power of Forgiveness in Community

GrowN Concept #6: The Disciplines

[Disciplines: C&T – The Bible. Role of Suffering & Grief. Righteousness. Discipline. Spiritual Poverty. Obedience. Sin & Temptation. Truth. Activity. Time. FOSTER – (Meditation. Prayer. Fasting.) Study. Simplicity. Solitude. Submission. Service. Confession. Worship. Guidance. Celebration.]

How People Grow – Not a therapy book but a book on the sanctification process. Does not discount therapy (it is being written by two of them!) but ADDS the sanctification process to the therapeutical model.



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2 Peter 3:18

*¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard,^(A) so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stability. ¹⁸ **But grow** in the grace and knowledge^(A) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.^{(a)(B)} Amen.^(b) HCSB*

With our FIVE GrowN concepts as a foundation:

- #1. Quadrant Growth.
- #2. Becoming a Reconciler.
- #3. Knowing God is for me.
- #4. Knowing God will provide for me.
- #5. Understanding the POWER in Community.

NOW WHAT do we actually DO? Concept #6: The Disciplines

[Disciplines: C&T – ~~The Bible~~ – ~~Role of Suffering & Grief~~ – ~~Righteousness~~. Discipline. Spiritual Poverty. Obedience. Sin & Temptation. Truth. Activity. Time. FOSTER – ~~Meditation~~ – ~~Prayer~~ – ~~Fasting~~. Study. Simplicity. Solitude. Submission. Service. Confession. Worship. Guidance. Celebration.]

The Path of GrowN
A Servants Heart

A Night of Examen

Psalm 139:1 *O LORD, you have searched me and known me. NKJV*

1 Chronicles 28:9 CEB

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."

1 Corinthians 2:10-15 CEB

¹⁰ God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God. ¹¹ Who knows a person's depths except their own spirit that lives in them? In the same way, no one has known the depths of God except God's Spirit. ¹² We haven't received the world's spirit but God's Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God. ¹³ These are the things we are talking about—not with words taught by human wisdom but with words taught by the Spirit—we are interpreting spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴ But people who are unspiritual don't accept the things from God's Spirit. They are foolishness to them and can't be understood, because they can only be comprehended in a spiritual way. ¹⁵ Spiritual people comprehend everything, but they themselves aren't understood by anyone.



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EXAMEN = Growth in True Intimacy

- Of Consciousness: God being present with us throughout the day and how we have responded to His presence.

Where we remember.

Where we rehearse the mighty deeds of God.

Where we listen.

Psalm 139:23-24 CEB

Examine me, God! Look at my heart! Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

²⁴ Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me, then lead me on the eternal path!

EXAMEN = Develops Self Knowledge

Romans 12:1 CEB

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.

- Of Conscience: Where we discover/uncover areas in us that need cleansing, purifying and healing.

John 8:32

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

EXAMEN = Initiated the process that Sets us Free

DO - A SERVANT'S HEART CONTAINS:

Praise

Worship

Sacrifice

Read verses and add what would go into a servant's heart.

Then, examen (prayer of) how bold are they in our own heart.

Matthew 25:21 *"His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. **Come, celebrate with me.**' CEB*

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Where have I been faithful in little?]



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1 Corinthians 4:5 *So don't judge anything before the right time—wait until the Lord comes. He will bring things that are hidden in the dark to light, and he will make people's motivations public. Then there will be recognition for each person from God.* **CEB**

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Prejudging. (does not say do not judge) Embracing God's recognition means....]

Mark 9:33-37 *They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about during the journey?" ³⁴ They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all."³⁶ Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, ³⁷ **"Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."** **CEB***

[WHERE IS SERVANT: welcoming =???? those who are children to us=???]

Mark 10:35-45 **A request from James and John**

³⁵ James and John, Zebedee's sons, came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" He asked.

³⁷ They said, "Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory." ³⁸ Jesus replied, "You don't know what you're asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered.

Jesus said, "You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them over and said, **"You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. ⁴³ But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. ⁴⁴ Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, ⁴⁵ for the Son of Man/Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people."** **CEB**

[WHERE IS SERVANT: World's definition of success = . Don't embrace that. Embrace =]

Matthew 11:29 **CEB**

Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves.

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Putting on Christ's Yoke =]



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John 5:30 *I can't do anything by myself. Whatever I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just. I don't seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me. CEB*

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Seeking God's will (What action(s) needed to do this)]

2 Corinthians 8:9

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although He was rich, He became poor for your sakes, so that you could become rich through His poverty. CEB

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Freely giving from our largess?]

Proverbs 24:10 *If you show yourself weak on a day of distress(adversity), your strength is too small. CEB*

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Behavior during distress/adversity =]

John 17:4 *I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. CEB*

[WHERE IS SERVANT: What work has He given me to do? Am I doing it?]

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 CEB

So a person should think about us this way—as servants of Christ and managers of God's secrets. ²In this kind of situation, what is expected of a manager is that they prove to be faithful.

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Manager of God's secrets...Faithful lives like?]

1 Thessalonians 5:20-24 CEB

Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages, ²¹but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. ²²Avoid every kind of evil. ²³Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming. ²⁴The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

[WHERE IS SERVANT:]

2 Timothy 1:7 CEB

God didn't give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled.

[WHERE IS SERVANT:]

Matthew 20:28 CEB

²⁵But Jesus called them over and said, "You know that those who rule the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. ²⁶But that's not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. ²⁷Whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸just as the Human One didn't come to be served



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but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people.” **[WHERE IS SERVANT: Where do I invest my life into others? How do I choose whom I serve?]**

Hebrews 9:12-14 CEB

*He entered the holy of holies once for all by his own blood, not by the blood of goats or calves, securing our deliverance for all time. ¹³ If the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkled ashes of cows made spiritually contaminated people holy and clean, ¹⁴ **how much more will the blood of Jesus wash our consciences clean from dead works in order to serve the living God?** He offered himself to God through the eternal Spirit as a sacrifice without any flaw.*

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Is my conscience washed from my past???]

1 Peter 4:9 Open your homes to each other without complaining. CEB

1 Samuel 12:24 CEB

Just fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. Look at what great things He has done for you!

[WHERE IS SERVANT: Can I recite what He has done for me? How many/much?]

Ephesians 6:6 CEB

Don't work to make yourself look good and try to flatter people, but act like slaves of Christ carrying out God's will from the heart.

[WHERE IS SERVANT:]

Galatians 6:2 CEB

Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

CLOSING:

1 John 2:16

Everything that is in the world—the craving for whatever the body feels, the craving for whatever the eyes see and the arrogant pride in one's possessions—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Self-righteous Service – Comes from human effort = What does this look like?

[Big. Easy to see. Concerned about results. WE pick. Temporary. Insensitive. Ends up fracturing community.]

John 13:14-15 CEB

¹⁴ If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do.



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[WHERE IS SERVANT: So “no” to societal pecking order. What is His definition of authority?]

Washing Others Feet Service comes from?

[Our relationship with the Divine.... BUILDS community. Is birthed in HUMILITY. Surrenders our rights. Being available to be vulnerable.]

Small service = Looks like what?

[Done in secret a lot. Requires hearing from the Spirit. Hiddenness rebukes the flesh. Requires SUBMISSION.]

“If there is no element of asceticism (simplicity, self-denial) in our lives, if we give free rein to the desires of the flesh...we shall find it hard to train for the service of Christ.” Bonhoeffer

TIME – Define waste of time. Small service redefines time. And strikes a blow to sloth and idleness. It refuses to gossip. Addresses conflict[doesn’t let it stop it]. Refuses to slander(malign, defame, lie) others.

SERVE looks like:

- To acknowledge others and affirm their worth.
- Listening.
- Bearing their burdens.
- Sharing His Word with them.

James 2:8 CEB

You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself.*^[a]

NOtes:

Mark 9:34-37

Who Is the Greatest?^(A)

³³ ^(B) Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, “What was it you ^[a]disputed among yourselves on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the road they had ^(C)disputed among themselves who *would be the*^(D) greatest. ³⁵ And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ^(E) “If anyone desires to be first, **he shall be last of all and servant of all.**” ³⁶ Then ^(F) He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and ^(G) whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”

Footnotes

- a. [Mark 9:33](#) discussed



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Cross references

- A. [Mark 9:33](#) : [Matt. 18:1–5](#); [Luke 9:46–48](#)
- B. [Mark 9:33](#) : [Matt. 18:1–5](#); [Mark 14:53, 64](#); [Luke 9:46–48](#); [22:24](#); [John 18:12](#); [19:7](#)
- C. [Mark 9:34](#) : [\[Prov. 13:10\]](#); [Mark 15:20, 31](#)
- D. [Mark 9:34](#) : [Matt. 18:4](#); [\[Mark 9:50\]](#); [14:65](#); [15:15, 37](#); [Luke 22:24](#); [23:46](#); [24:46](#)
- E. [Mark 9:35](#) : [Matt. 20:26, 27](#); [23:11](#); [Mark 10:43, 44](#); [Luke 22:26, 27](#)
- F. [Mark 9:36](#) : [Mark 10:13–16](#)
- G. [Mark 9:37](#) : [Matt. 10:40](#); [Luke 10:16](#); [John 13:20](#)

Philippians 2:5-11

The Humbled and Exalted Christ

⁵ ^(A)Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, ^(B)being in the form of God, did not consider it ^(a)robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ ^(C)but ^(b)made Himself of no reputation, taking the form ^(D)of a bondservant, *and* ^(E)coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and ^(F)became ^(G)obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹ ^(H)Therefore God also ^(I)has highly exalted Him and ^(J)given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ ^(K)that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and ^(L)that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father.

Footnotes

- a. [Philippians 2:6](#) *Or something to be held onto to be equal*
- b. [Philippians 2:7](#) *emptied Himself of His privileges*

Cross references

- A. [Philippians 2:5](#) : [\[Matt. 11:29\]](#); [Rom. 15:3](#)
- B. [Philippians 2:6](#) : [2 Cor. 4:4](#)
- C. [Philippians 2:7](#) : [Ps. 22:6](#)
- D. [Philippians 2:7](#) : [Is. 42:1](#)
- E. [Philippians 2:7](#) : [\[John 1:14\]](#); [Rom. 8:3](#); [Gal. 4:4](#); [\[Heb. 2:17\]](#)
- F. [Philippians 2:8](#) : [Ps. 40:6–8](#); [Matt. 26:39](#); [John 10:18](#); [\[Rom. 5:19\]](#)
- G. [Philippians 2:8](#) : [Heb. 5:8](#)
- H. [Philippians 2:9](#) : [\[Matt. 28:18\]](#); [Heb. 2:9](#)
- I. [Philippians 2:9](#) : [Ps. 68:18](#); [110:1](#); [Is. 52:13](#); [Acts 2:33](#)
- J. [Philippians 2:9](#) : [Is. 9:6](#); [Luke 1:32](#); [Eph. 1:21](#)
- K. [Philippians 2:10](#) : [Is. 45:23](#); [Rom. 14:11](#); [Rev. 5:13](#)
- L. [Philippians 2:11](#) : [John 13:13](#); [\[Rom. 10:9; 14:9\]](#)



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Eph. 1:3–14 The believers' blessings

³ Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. ⁴ God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. ⁵ God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan ⁶ and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. ⁷ We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, ⁸ which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God revealed his hidden design[Ⓜ] to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. ¹⁰ This is what God planned for the climax of all times:[Ⓜ] to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. ¹¹ We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. ¹² We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. ¹³ You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT

Lesson 8

A SERVANT'S HEART

Philippians 2:7

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

In the past year I have done some substitute teaching in a local Christian school. Although I had taught third grade years ago, I was amazed that many things about them remain unchanged. One of the big consistencies was in the role of leadership. To the average third grader being line leader is still a position of great significance. Something about being first in line gives a child a feeling of accomplishment. (I guess I still feel that way as I occasionally am first in a checkout line that just opened.) This coveted position is a place of prestige and importance not to be taken lightly.

Something within each of us constantly tempts us to fight for our rights and privileges. We desire to be recognized and served in ways that pamper our egos and feed our self-awareness. Yet, as we consider the life of the Lord Jesus, we realize that His interaction with the people around Him was in direct opposition to this self-centered philosophy. In His coming to earth, He not only laid aside all position and honor but also became a man of self-sacrificing service. Let's study some passages to see how His approach to service manifested itself.

As a Little Child

On several occasions Jesus taught His disciples the meaning of service. He continually had to refocus the disciples' attentions, as they were prone to desire the status and recognition as the "Best Disciple" or "Most Likely to Succeed."

His twelve closest followers often argued among themselves about who was worthy of the positions closest to Jesus. Jesus used these occasions to challenge them to have His heart—the heart of a servant.

Read **Mark 9:30–37**, focusing on how Jesus instructed the disciples in the area of service.

1. Jesus told His disciples about what three events (vv. 30–31)?
2. What was their response (v. 32)?
3. What was their focus while Jesus was teaching (vv. 33–34)?
4. Did Jesus know what was going on between the disciples (v. 35)?
5. When Jesus gathered the disciples around Him, what did He teach them about His definition of greatness (v. 35)?



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6. Who did He use to illustrate His teaching (vv. 36–37)?
7. What truth did He teach the disciples with this illustration?
8. According to Mark 9:35, if someone wants to be first, she must be and

As He That Serveth

Time in the Word: Read Mark 10:32–45.

In Mark 10:32–34, Jesus spoke again to His disciples about the events that were soon to come. He wanted them to be ready for the unfolding of redemption’s plan, yet the disciples seemed to find the predictions of the coming days unsettling. They struggled for some definite security for their futures. Two brothers, James and John, asked Jesus for special positions in His future glory. They wanted to sit one on His right hand and the other on His left. According to Matthew 20:20–21, they even had their mother, Salome, ask the Lord for these special seats of honor.

Look again at the passage in Mark and consider the response these brothers received from Jesus and the other disciples.

9. When the other ten disciples heard what James and John were asking, they were (Mark 10:41).
10. Jesus again gathered the disciples around Him. He said they were acting like the (Mark 10:42).
11. Their response was completely opposite of what Jesus wanted. According to Mark 10:43–44, to be great is to ; and to be first means you will be
12. Jesus’ purpose for coming was not to be , but to and give His a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Another passage in Luke tells of the Lord Jesus’ challenge to His disciples in this area of service. Again there was a rivalry among the disciples about who should be considered great.

And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. **(Luke 22:24–27)**

The Gentile kings would “rule with an iron hand, and then take a title that extolled their benevolence.” Jesus told His followers that they should do neither. He declared that the one who is greatest is the one who considers himself as the younger, and the one who is the leader is the one who serves others. To illustrate His point even further, Jesus used a common scenario of their day. He asked who is greater—the one at the table to be served or the one serving? He answered His own question—the one being served. Then He proclaimed His surrendered heart—

I am among you as he that serves.

As an Attitude of His Heart

Jesus was humble and submissive to the will of the Father. He had not come to be exalted as King at this time. He came with the attitude of a perfect servant to minister to a lost and dying world. His love for mankind was not disingenuous but saturated with a godly love for lost mankind. He came as Savior knowing He would return as Lord and King.

13. Read the following verses and match them to the phrases that describe His attitude.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Isaiah 53:7 | A. Meek and lowly |
| Zechariah 9:9 | B. Became poor |
| Matthew 11:29 | C. Straitened or distressed |
| Luke 12:50 | D. Sought the will of the Father |
| John 5:30 | E. Just and lowly |
| 2 Corinthians 8:9 | F. No reputation, servant |
| Philippians 2:7 | G. Sheep before shearers |

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU

In John 17:4, Jesus declares to God the Father, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” Oh, that those same words could be ours as we one day stand in His presence!

14. Evaluate your service to God by answering the following questions based on the truths of the various verses.

WHEN may I want to quit?

~~Proverbs 24:10~~

WHY may I want to quit?

Proverbs 24:10

HOW should I want to be found?



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- 1 Corinthians 4:2
- WHO is faithful to me as I serve?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- WHAT has God given me?
- 2 Timothy 1:7

Time to Memorize: Continue to memorize Philippians 2:5–8.

Time for Prayer: Ask God to show you any areas of service that you are not doing with the heart of a servant.

From My Heart to Yours

At times we each must ask ourselves some tough questions. It's not always easy to be honest when it comes to evaluating our own motives. How would you describe your heart for service? Would you have been in the middle of the disciples' arguing for your deserved place beside Jesus? We all know the answers we are supposed to give when these tough questions are asked. But I challenge you to look closely at your heart as you answer the list of questions below. How should you honestly answer them?

Am I hurt when people don't acknowledge what I've done?

Am I not interested in helping if I have to work under someone else's leadership?

Do I want to share the task or ministry with anyone else?

Do I get irritated when someone else is asked to do something that I feel I can do better?

Do I hesitate to take a task if no one will know that I'm the one who did it?

Carefully consider the words of the following poem. May it be the prayer of your heart today!

Servant's Heart

Make me a servant like You, dear Lord,
Living for others each day:

Humble and meek, helping the weak,
Loving in all that I say.

Make me a witness like You, dear Lord,
Showing the love of the cross—
Sharing Your Word till all have heard,
Serving whatever the cost.

Give me, Lord, a servant's heart.

Here's my life; take ev'ry part.

Give me, Lord, a servant's heart.

Help me draw so close to You
That Your love comes shining through.

Give me, Lord, a servant's heart.

Give me, Lord, a servant's heart.

—Ron Hamilton¹

Lesson 5 A Servant's Heart

What did you want to be when you grew up? Most likely, your ambition was not to become a slave. Even now, you'd probably rather have a maid than be one! But the Bible summons you to servanthood. The goal of every Christian ought to be the same as Jesus Christ's—"not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (**Matthew 20:28**).

It's usually not fun to serve. Normally it's just plain old hard work, a discipline of obedience. But serving God and others from the heart with godly motives brings joy and blessings unique to those who serve. Even if you didn't grow up to be what you'd planned to be, it's not too late to pursue the greatest vocation of all—a servant!

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

¹ Kimmel, J. (2007). [*A Life Surrendered: A Women's Bible Study*](#) (pp. 55–62). JourneyForth.



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WHOM DO YOU SERVE?

1. In the following verses, underline whom you serve.

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.
(Ephesians 6:6)

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11)

Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. (Joshua 24:14)

~~How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14)~~

2. List some ways you are presently serving the Lord.

Look at your list. Do you see that serving the Lord always requires serving people? You can worship the Lord alone, but you cannot serve Him in solitude.

SERVING THE LORD = SERVING PEOPLE

Serving the servants of the Lord

After the Lord gave the child Samuel to Hannah, she “lent him to the Lord” to be His lifelong servant. Samuel went to live at the temple with Eli, the high priest. First Samuel 2:11 says that this boy, around age twelve, “did minister unto [serve; wait on] the Lord before Eli the priest.”

3. What services did he perform for Eli (1 Samuel 3:3–6, 15)?

These were simple, practical acts, but in doing them, Samuel was serving the Lord.

4. Read Luke 8:1–3. What were Jesus and His disciples doing?

What women were traveling with them?

What needs did they meet with their own resources?

This was the first ladies’ missionary society!

Serving the saints of the Lord



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The early church honored and financially supported older widows who had no other resources if they were devoted to serving the Lord and the church.

5. List the good works these women did (1 Timothy 5:10).

These are all unglamorous, private acts of ministry to others, but they were done as service to the Lord.

6. Dorcas was a servant to the church (Acts 9:36–39) who met the needs of the poor. Verse 36 says she was “full of and .”

Specifically, what had she done and for whom?

What tools, then, did she use to serve the Lord?

7. Read the account of the judgment of the Gentiles in Matthew 25:34–40. What principle is being taught?

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

The opportunity to do good works = the obligation to do good works—to everyone, but especially to whom? Who is that?

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Hebrews 6:10)

The ministry of those who served the saints (poor, persecuted church members) is described here as a “work and labour [wearying, painful toil] of love,” done in the name of God.

8. In contrast, what does 1 John 3:17 say about a Christian who does not meet the physical needs of other believers?

9. Read Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:9, and Hebrews 13:2. What is one practical way to love and serve?

When you do this, what tools are you using to serve the Lord?

HOW DO YOU SERVE?

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)



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10. How do you recognize service that's done from the heart? What does service that's not from the heart look like? (Remember the Bible definition of *heart*—your emotional, mental, and spiritual self.)
11. According to this verse, what should you keep in mind as you serve?
12. What emotions should accompany your service (Psalm 100:2; Romans 12:11)?

What “great things” has God done for you? Have you been serving Him grudgingly, motivated by guilt and obligation, or in jubilant response to His blessings?

Your physical body is your tool for service. Though you love and worship God spiritually, service always involves action.

13. Every woman is allowed to choose whose servant she will be. Read Romans 6:13–23 and give the two options you have—and their outcomes. (Your “members” are your body parts.)
14. Your choice of whom you serve with your body stems from a spiritual decision you have made (or not made). What surrender does Romans 12:1 beg you to make?
15. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20. What amazing truth about the Holy Spirit is taught in verse 19?

Therefore, you are not .

So, what is your obligation?

16. How have you used your body to serve others this week? If you are not using your body to serve others, what does that say about your spirit?

WHY DO YOU SERVE?

Every Christian has received at least one spiritual gift. You (yes, you!) have something special to contribute to the body of Christ.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. (1 Corinthians 7:7)

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. (1 Corinthians 12:7)



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But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

17. Ephesians 4:12–16 tells how the body of Christ will gain when believers exercise their spiritual gifts. List those benefits.

18. According to 1 Corinthians 13:1–3, what one trait is absolutely essential if any spiritual gift is to benefit others?

Love is always focused on others, not on self. You don't receive a spiritual gift so that you can be proud of it or enjoy it by yourself but so that you can use it to serve the church.

19. Romans 12:3–10 compares the body of believers to a physical body, in which all members (all parts) have been gifted for their office (the role they are to play).

Where did your gift come from (verse 3)?

How should that affect your attitude toward your gift?

Do we all have the same gifts (verses 4, 6)?

What is our relationship to Christ and to each other (verse 5)?

What seven spiritual gifts are named (verses 6–8)?

With what kind of love are you to serve (verse 9a)?

In what practical way do you show love (verse 10)?

Notice how all these ways of serving are focused on people. Do you recognize any of these gifts as yours? Are you using them?

My husband and I were visiting in the home of a couple who had been members of our church. Explaining why they had recently decided to join another, much larger church, the wife said, "Well, it's just like shopping. If K-Mart doesn't have what you want, you go to Wal-Mart instead."

Based on what you have just learned, what's wrong with that sort of consumer mentality toward the local church? Is it biblical for a Christian to choose a church based on what it offers her? Or does she have other obligations to the body?



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First Corinthians 12 gives another comparison of the body of Christ with a physical body.

20. Why did the Lord make His children (the parts of His body) different from each other (verses 14–20)?

Is any member of the body unimportant, unnecessary, insignificant, or inferior? Explain (verses 21–24).

Instead of being divided, how should we respond to each other (verses 25–26)?

We serve each other in the body by recognizing the value of every person’s spiritual gift and by sharing joys and giving emotional support in trials. Don’t fret about identifying your spiritual gift. Just tell the Lord you will serve Him by serving others and then watch for doors to open. Walk through them, and you’ll soon sense what you do best.

Peter sums up our topic in 1 Peter 4:10–11. He says that you are to minister to others the gift you have received, because you are simply the steward, not the owner, of your gift.

21. If you have a speaking gift, how are you to speak?

If you have a serving gift, how are you to serve?

What’s your ultimate goal for using your gift?

Ruth serves the Lord by playing the piano and teaching children in her church in spite of crippling arthritis and other painful ailments. When I asked her how she does it, she answered, “I don’t know. I just know that I’m supposed to serve the Lord and that when I try, He helps me. Every time I play the piano, He gets the glory, because everybody knows I can’t play with hands like these!”

22. What was Isaiah’s honest appraisal of himself (Isaiah 6:5–8)?

What did God do for Isaiah?

What was Isaiah’s immediate response?

Simon the Pharisee thought he was righteous, but he omitted some simple acts of service to Jesus (Luke 7:36–48).

23. What were they (verses 44–46)?



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Why did the sinful woman do much more (verse 47)?

According to Jesus, who will love and serve the Lord most?

Jesus Christ came to earth as a servant, not as a King; as a man, not in His glory as God.

24. Read Philippians 2:5–8. What was Jesus' ultimate act of service?

Even before His death, He set an example of servanthood. Read John 13:3–15.

25. What simple, humble service did He do for His disciples?

Why did He do that? Was it just because their feet were dirty?

What example was He setting for His disciples (and you)?

In Mark 10:35–45. Jesus' disciples were competing for dominance in His kingdom. Jesus told them, "Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all."

If you were asked to serve in a president's cabinet, you'd be honored. But you have an infinitely greater privilege—to serve the King of Kings! You serve Him by serving His people. God makes a promise to you, His servant, in Hebrews 6:10: "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love."

But I am among you as he that serveth. (Luke 22:27)

"Once we realize that Jesus has served us even to the depths of our meagerness, our selfishness, and our sin, nothing we encounter from others will be able to exhaust our determination to serve others for His sake." (Oswald Chambers)²

Psalm 119:124-125

¹²⁴ Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,
And teach me Your statutes.

¹²⁵ I *am* Your servant;
Give me understanding,
That I may know Your testimonies.

² Barba, C. (2008). [*Refresh Your Heart: A Women's Bible Study*](#) (pp. 40–50). JourneyForth.



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Psalm 119:134-136

¹³⁴ Redeem me from the oppression of man,
That I may keep Your precepts.
¹³⁵ Make Your face shine upon Your servant,
And teach me Your statutes.
¹³⁶ Rivers of water run down from my eyes,
Because *men* do not keep Your law.

Psalm 119:139-141

¹³⁹ My zeal has [Ⓜ]consumed me,
Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.
¹⁴⁰ Your word *is* very [Ⓜ]pure;
Therefore Your servant loves it.
¹⁴¹ I *am* small and despised,
Yet I do not forget Your precepts.

Psalm 119:175-176

¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live, and it shall praise You;
And let Your judgments help me.
¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
Seek Your servant,
For I do not forget Your commandments.

Matthew 24:45-51

The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant

⁴⁵ [Ⓜ]“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food [Ⓜ]in due season? ⁴⁶ [Ⓜ]Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷ Assuredly, I say to you that [Ⓜ]he will make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸ But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master [Ⓜ]is delaying [Ⓜ]his coming,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is [Ⓜ]not aware of, ⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. [Ⓜ]There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 24:45](#) at the right time
- b. [Matthew 24:48](#) NU omits *his coming*



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Cross references

- A. [Matthew 24:45](#) : [Luke 12:41–48](#)
- B. [Matthew 24:45](#) : [Luke 12:42–46](#); [[Acts 20:28](#)]
- C. [Matthew 24:46](#) : [Rev. 16:15](#)
- D. [Matthew 24:47](#) : [Matt. 25:21, 23](#); [Luke 22:29](#)
- E. [Matthew 24:48](#) : [[2 Pet. 3:4–9](#)]
- F. [Matthew 24:50](#) : [Mark 13:32](#)
- G. [Matthew 24:51](#) : [Matt. 8:12](#); [25:30](#)

Matthew 25

The Parable of the Talents^(K)

¹⁴ “For the kingdom of heaven is ^(W)like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, ^(W)to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were ^(W)faithful over a few things, ^(W)I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into ^(W)the joy of your lord.’ ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³ His lord said to him, ^(W)‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into ^(W)the joy of your lord.’

²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’

²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You ^(W)wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.



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²⁹ ¶For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant ¶into the outer darkness. ¶There will be weeping and ¶gnashing of teeth.'

2 KINGS 4:8

The woman's gracious provision for the Lord's prophet resulted in the coming of a precious son into her life (see Prov. 11:25). Though some consider namelessness as merely the absence of power, we see in this humble woman the reward for a servant's heart—power with God and gratitude from His prophet. Her inward beauty (servant's heart) prompted outward duty (hospitality); **Elisha's inward virtue (gratitude) unfolded in outward deeds** (gift of a son). **The Shunammite's unsolicited hospitality awakened Elisha's thoughtful gratitude.** Her pro-active faith and confident determination in the midst of grief resulted in the restoration of her son's life.

See also 2 Kin. 8:1–6; notes on Children (2 Sam. 21); Hospitality (1 Pet. 4)³

PRAISE — an act of worship or acknowledgment by which the virtues or deeds of another are recognized and extolled. The praise of one human being toward another, although often beneficial (1 Cor. 11:2; 1 Peter 2:14), can be a snare (Prov. 27:21; Matt. 6:1–5). But the praise of God toward people is the highest commendation they can receive. Such an act of praise reflects a true servant's **heart (Matt. 25:21; 1 Cor. 4:5; Eph. 1:3–14).**

Our praise toward God is the means by which we express our joy to the Lord. We are to praise God both for who He is and for what He does (Ps. 150:2). Praising God for who He is is called adoration; praising Him for what He does is known as thanksgiving. Praise of God may be in song or prayer, individually or collectively, spontaneous or prearranged, originating from the emotions or from the will.

The godly person will echo David's words, "My praise shall be continually of You . . . And [I] will praise You yet more and more" (Ps. 71:6, 14).⁴

³ Thomas Nelson, I. (1995). *The Woman's Study Bible*. Thomas Nelson.

⁴ Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., & Harrison, R. K., Thomas Nelson Publishers, eds. (1995). In *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*. Thomas Nelson, Inc.