

SERVE

Community Group Series

"But as for me
and my house,
we will serve
the LORD."

JOSHUA 24:15.

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SESSION 1

Jesus the servant

Napoleon said the following: "I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him."

Question: How did Jesus have such a profound influence on the earth?

Answer: By service.

Jesus established a Kingdom on service. He overcame by service and not by force.

Philippians 2:1-11

We are instructed to count others more significant than ourselves – Jesus was the ultimate example. To give oneself to service there needs to be a dying to self.

What gave Jesus the confidence to give everything up and become a bondservant (slave)?

John 13

From John 13:3 we learn that Jesus was secure in His position in God.

It was from this position that Jesus knelt down to wash His disciples feet.

Mark 10:45

How does God define greatness?

Who then can be great?

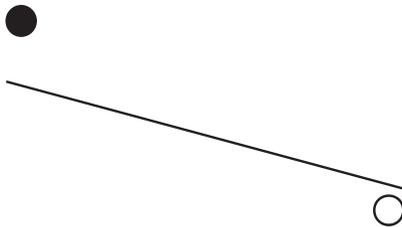
Jesus leads the way by becoming a servant, in full submission to His Father's will – John 5:19.

Conclusion

Jesus is the Servant King.

He changes the order of things by showing that it is greater to serve than to be served.

In the coming two weeks we will look at our response to the example Jesus has set for us.



SESSION 2

Our call to serve

In John 13:14 Jesus says: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." As disciples of Jesus we are called to serve in the same way as He served. We are now His servants. What does this mean practically? What does this look like in our daily life?

Service unto God (His servants)

We are servants of God and not man – Gal 1:10 (the word here is bondservant).

Yet in service to God we will be called to put the interests of others before our own – Phil 2:3-4. To be servants of God we need to know God's business – Luke 19:13.

The reason we serve is to advance the Kingdom – it is part of being on mission for God.

To serve in this way will require us to put aside certain things that we value.

What does this service look like? (group discussion)

Work: How should this message affect our attitude in the office / lecture hall / tut group? What are some practical things we could do differently?

Church: What are the benefits of getting more involved in the local church? What are the things that stand in our way?

Family: How can we serve our family better?

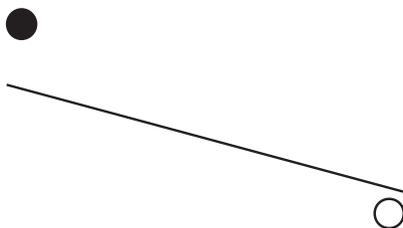
How can we ensure we don't take those closest to us for granted?

Link the discussion back to the understanding that service is the means by which the Kingdom is advanced.

Conclusion

Serving should be the immediate response to the gospel message.

When we are fully aware of how much Christ did for us, we will respond by doing the same for others. Service has Christ as our example, and the advancement of the Kingdom as its context. We are servants of God first, which means our service is never wasted, it will always rise as worship.



SESSION 3

Serving the City

As a community we exist not only for each other, but also for the benefit of our non-members. God has determined that each of us would be living in Cape Town at this time – Acts 17:26. This is our chance to make a difference in the city and surrounding communities of Cape Town. What legacy are we going to leave behind?

A city within a city

*God has called his people to be like a city on a hill – Matt 5:14
A city speaks of diversity and community – a resemblance of the Trinity.*

A hill speaks of being on display. The Church is to be a community displaying Kingdom values. The local church itself is to be a city displaying what life is like in the Kingdom – Acts 4:34.

Seeking the welfare of the city

We are not to exclude ourselves from the city – Jer 29:5
Nor are we to embrace the selfish ways of the city, rather we are to increase the Kingdom – Jer 29:6

We are called to embrace the city and yet remain distinct in our hearts and in our actions at the same time.

We are to seek the welfare/peace/prosperity of the city by serving it.

In seeking the welfare of the city we will find our own welfare.

While we are free from all (sons and daughters of God seated in heavenly places – Eph 2) we become servants of the city in order to reach some and see them saved – 1 Cor 9:19

This will require time and sacrifice. We should start with small steps and work in team. Building relationships with those we are seeking to serve is important.

Conclusion

We need to continually draw our inspiration for service from the example of Christ – Heb 12:1-2 Jesus was motivated by a reward. We too should see our reward and continue in humble service. People will take our service for granted – but the same applies to Jesus and the cross.

