



Part 5: The Discipline of Serving

1 Peter 4:10-11

1. So far, we have studied the disciplines of Scripture, prayer, fasting, and community. Share with your group the discipline that is most natural for you and the one that is least natural for you and why. _____

2. In the sermon, we learned that the first century Roman Empire viewed showing mercy by sacrificially serving someone as a character defect and contrary to justice (unearned help). How would you describe how our western/American culture views this? _____

 - a. How does showing mercy by sacrificially serving someone challenge you? _____

3. Read **1 Peter 4:10-11**. **Verse 10** tells us that ALL Christians have spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift, according to Wayne Grudem, is “any talent or ability which is empowered by the Holy Spirit and able to be used in the ministry of the church.” What is (are) your spiritual gift(s)? _____

 - a. We also learn in **verse 10** we are to use our gifts to SERVE one another. Why is it important to understand the purpose of our gifts is to SERVE others? _____

 - b. Your gift from God is intended by God to reveal His grace to others. How does being a good STEWARD of your gift from God highlight and glorify God to others? _____

 - c. **Verse 11** tells us there are two categories of spiritual gifts: speaking and serving. Both are used to serve others. How can you serve others with your words? _____

 - d. How are you using the discipline of Scripture to help you make sure the words you are speaking are in line with God’s Word? _____

 - e. Read **Romans 12:6-8**. Which gifts lean more toward speaking and which lean toward serving? _____

4. At Mosaic Community, we say, “my service to God is my gift from God.” Why is it a gift from God? _____

5. When you serve God in the right way (V11- “...by the strength that God supplies...”), you don’t get depleted, you get filled up. **Nehemiah 8:10** says, ‘...the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ How can the joy of the Lord that you feel when you serve others be your strength? _____

6. God will not have miserable servants because they belittle the One they serve. God supplies joy and a joyful servant glorifies Him. How would you describe your attitude toward serving God lately? _____

7. As you look ahead to 2021, here are 5 practical ideas to help you prioritize the DISCIPLINE OF SERVING. Write down how, in 2021, you will use each one to grow in the discipline of serving:

a. **START SERVING** – Jump in! Get started and serve anywhere you’re needed. We can use people in our Welcome Ministry, Kids’ Church (background checks for all), Men’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Young Adult, or Youth. Connect with Darrin Yount. He can help you. _____

b. **KEEP SERVING** – Don’t’ quit. Keep showing up. Eventually God may move you to serve in some other way – but always keep serving. This goes for retirement also. Nowhere in the Bible are Christians encouraged to retire from serving. Once you retire – you can serve even more! _____

c. **DISCERN PASSIONS** – As you serve, note what makes you uniquely passionate. Our desires help reveal our spiritual gifts. You want to prayerfully discern how God has uniquely gifted you for ministry so you can engage in that kind of service as much as possible. _____

d. **NOTICE YOUR IMPACT** – Pay attention to where you have unique impact in the lives of others. Listen to what others say to you while you serve. Welcome the feedback of mature, discerning Christians here as well. Sometimes – we may think we are gifted where we are not. _____

e. **DEVELOP YOUR GIFT** – Spiritual gifts become more impactful through developing them. So - discipline yourself to sharpen your abilities. Read books, listen to podcasts, go to conferences and never stop praying to become more impactful. _____
