

June 11, 2023

Sermon Title: Faithful Servant

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 2:19-24

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Mark 10:45 ESV

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

What does _____ service look like?

1. Faithful Servants _____ the next gen

Philippians 2:19 ESV

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

1 Timothy 1:2 ESV

2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:17 ESV

17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

A. Trust younger people with great opportunities

B. _____ character matters

Philippians 2:20-22 ESV

20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy’s **proven** worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

C. Grow in Character Development before Responsibility

Character Development Questions

- Ask others: What can I help with?
- Ask yourself: Where can I serve where I'm at?

Philippians 2:20-22 ESV

20 For I have no one like him, who will be **genuinely concerned** for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

Not only did Paul give them the gospel and lead them to Christ, but he also wanted to be sure they were growing spiritually. His genuine interest in them continued. —Bible Knowledge Commentary

2. Faithful Servants _____ for the church

Philippians 2:20-22 ESV

20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has **served with me in the gospel**.

Grid for Viewing Service:

- Own
- Catalyze
- Bless

3. Faithful Servants Trust God's _____

Philippians 2:23-24 ESV

23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

When thinking through faithful service...Where am I limited?

Philippians 2:23-24 ESV

23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I **trust** in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

James 4:13-17 ESV

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Care with Trust —Show gospel care for others, trusting in God's timing

Community Group Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. What was one of the greatest ways someone served you?
2. How would you define a servant?
3. Why do you think people want responsibility before proving Character?

Into the Bible:

Read Philippians 2:19-24

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

1. Was there something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?
2. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
3. From this passage, what are some characteristics of a Servant?
4. In verse 2:22, what is the gospel and why was it so important to Paul? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4 might help)
5. In light of the importance of the gospel, What are some ways we can “seek the interest of others?”
6. In verses 23-24, How does Paul trust Christ with the timing of sending Timothy and the timing of his visit?

For Extra Study

Read James 4:13-17

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

1. In this passage, there is a person who is making plans. What are some of the attitudes they express?
2. From the passage, what are some reasons that we should trust God with our plans?
3. Why should this humble us?
4. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?
Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application:

1. Where can we trust the Next Gen with great ministry responsibilities?
2. Next Gen, how can you grow in teachability so you can be an example?
3. Ian talked about a grid for how the church views serving Own (Church runs it), Catalyze (Members Run it with church support), Bless (Members run it on their own with church prayers and blessings). Which one do you think we are good at? Which one do you think we need to improve on?
4. What is an area that the church can “bless” you in serving?
5. When it comes to serving, what typically characterizes your “boundaries?” Self-interest things, or Gospel-focused things?
6. When it comes to making plans, why do we struggle with waiting on God’s timing? What are some ways you continue to grow in character while you wait?
7. How can our group help each other with these questions?