

Serving, Preparing You for Your Purpose

1) What does Serving mean

- a) sharath -- **To minister, to serve, to attend** Usage: The Hebrew verb "sharath" primarily means to serve or minister. It is often used in the context of service to God, particularly in the roles of priests and Levites who ministered in the Tabernacle and Temple.
- b) "Eved" is another Hebrew word for "serve" and means to work or labor for another's benefit. The word "avad" is also used theologically to mean worship. (The Israelites' understanding of work was deeply connected to their covenant relationship with God, where labor was seen as a form of worship and obedience to divine commandments.)
 - i) According to Strong Concordance: **Cultural and Historical Background:** In ancient Israel, the concept of service was deeply embedded in religious and social life. The Levites, a tribe set apart for religious duties, were tasked with ministering in the Tabernacle and later the Temple. Their service was seen as a direct act of worship and obedience to God. This idea of service extended beyond religious duties to include acts of hospitality and care within the community, reflecting a broader cultural value of serving others as a reflection of serving God.
- c) perform duties or services for (another person or an organization); be of use in achieving or satisfying; be of some specified use; (in tennis and other racket sports) hit the ball or shuttlecock to begin play; bind (a rope) with thin cord to protect or strengthen it; function for or treat (someone) in a specified way; be employed as a member of the armed forces

2) Who do we serve?

- a) As we move forward in this teaching, I want you to ask yourselves two questions "
 - i) Who am I serving?
 - ii) How am I serving them?
- b) There are only four different people we serve.
 - i) God
 - ii) Satan (always bad)
 - iii) Ourselves (can be good or bad)
 - iv) Others
- c) There are several different ways we are serving them.
 - i) Love
 - ii) Fear (is never good, unless you mean awe of God)
 - iii) Worship (is only good in regard to God)

3) What does serving look like?

- a) Genesis 18:1-8

- i) Abraham's hospitality towards three strangers who turned out to be angels is a powerful example of kindness and generosity. Despite not knowing who they were, Abraham welcomed them into his home, provided them with food and drink, and showed them great hospitality. This act of service not only demonstrated Abraham's generous spirit but also his willingness to help others in need without expecting anything in return.
- b) Genesis 41:46-57
 - i) Joseph's service in Egypt during a time of famine saved many lives. He didn't know that his being a servant would lead to him leading a nation. He had dreams that his family would bow down to him, but from his perspective he was the lowest of the low and ended up in jail, so I am assuming that he did not see a way that those dreams would be fulfilled let alone that he would lead and save a nation. But God has to teach him about serving so that when he got to that high office, he would still rely on God
- c) Exodus 3-14
 - i) Moses' leadership of the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt was a monumental act of service. His dedication to the well-being of the Israelites and his commitment to following God's commands exemplify the qualities of a true servant leader.
- d) Ruth 1:16-17
 - i) Ruth's unwavering loyalty and devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi is a touching example of service. Instead of leaving Naomi to fend for herself, Ruth chose to stay by her side, caring for her and providing support during a difficult time. Ruth's selfless actions demonstrate the importance of standing by loved ones in times of need and offering assistance and comfort when they are needed most.
- e) 1 Samuel 16:14-23
 - i) David's service to King Saul. David served King Saul in many ways, one was playing the harp when Saul was troubled by the evil spirit. David continued to serve Saul even after Saul tried to kill him several times. Even though David knew that Saul was in the wrong he continued to love and honor him for where God placed Saul and even after his death he continued to honor him.
- f) Luke 10:25-37
 - i) The parable of the Good Samaritan is a powerful example of showing compassion and care for others in need.
- g) John 13:1-17
 - i) Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Despite being their teacher and leader, Jesus humbly knelt before his disciples, washing their feet as a symbol of service and love. This act not only demonstrated the importance of humility and serving others but

also set an example for his followers to follow in his footsteps and serve one another with love and compassion.

h) Matthew 14:13-21

- i) Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish showcases his compassion and ability to provide for the needs of others.

i) Acts 2:44-45

- i) The early church members' practice of sharing their possessions with one another exemplifies the spirit of generosity and community. By willingly giving to those in need and ensuring that no one lacked anything, the early Christians showed a deep sense of care and concern for one another. This act of service created a strong sense of unity and fellowship among the believers, highlighting the importance of sharing resources and supporting one another in times of need.

j) Acts 9:36-42

- i) Dorcas, also known as Tabitha, was known for her acts of charity and service to the poor. She made clothing for those in need, demonstrating her compassion and caring for the less fortunate in her community.

k) Acts 13-28

- i) Paul's missionary journeys were significant acts of service as he spread the message of Jesus Christ and served others through his preaching and teaching efforts. Paul faced numerous challenges and hardships as he traveled far and wide to share the gospel with those who had not yet heard it. His dedication to serving others and his commitment to sharing the love of Christ with people from different backgrounds and cultures exemplify the qualities of a true servant of God.

l) Different people serve in different ways.

m) The redemptive gifts and how they visit someone in the hospital:

- i) Prophet: "What principle do we learn from this? What is God trying to say to you through this illness?"
- ii) Servant: "I brought your mail in, fed your dog, watered your plants, and here is a little gift that you will need while you are sick."
- iii) Teacher: "I've done some research on your illness, and I can explain what is happening."
- iv) Mercy: "How do you feel? I can't begin to tell you how bad I felt when I heard you were sick."
- v) Ruler: "Don't worry about a thing. I've assigned your job to four other people in the office."
- vi) Exhorter: "I thought I'd come by and cheer you up. Have you had many visitors? I meet a really nice lady down the hall..."
- vii) Giver: "I just stopped by to check in on you and see how you are doing."

n) But we all need to learn to serve in ways that take us out of our comfort zone.

4) What does Serving have to do with your purpose?

a) Breakdown of serving in my life and where it has led me:

- i) Sitting and talking and listening to the older ladies in the church → Helping one of the older ladies in the church clean and cooking for her husband → Volunteering at Hospital as a candy striper → Going to medical assisting school → Becoming and STNA at a nursing home → Becoming a nurse
- ii) Cooking and serving in a soup kitchen → Baby sitting → Set up and tear down for AFA → PowerPoint slides for worship → Leading children's church for AFA → Teaching at Encounters → Teaching now
- iii) Learning how to play flute in high school → Playing my flute at Cleveland House of prayer → Learning how to pick ministry music for Encounters → Picking out worship songs at LSC → Leading worship at LSC → Dancing with worship flags and know the atmosphere and where the Spirit is leading
- iv) Cooking and serving in a soup kitchen → Sitting and talking and listening to the older ladies in the church → Helping one of the older ladies in the church clean and cook for her husband → Volunteering at Hospital as a candy striper → Leading children's church for AFA → Ministering to people at Encounters → Becoming a Deliverance minister

5) Trying to work outside of your purpose and birthright

a) [Birthright Confusion](#)

- i) 1 King 19: 1-5 - Elijah and running from Jezebel after killing the prophets of Baal
 - (1) Elijah expected that Jezebel would come to an end right after he killed all of the prophets, when this didn't happen, he became very afraid and angry. He didn't know what was going to happen because what he expected to happen didn't. So when he saw that Jezebel was not defeated right after all of her prophets were defeated he ran.
 - (2) Elijah also didn't realize that his passion and his birthright were not lining up. Sometimes we get discouraged when we think we understand where God is going with what he is asking us to do. We believe we know the outcome of what our purpose or calling is supposed to be. But sometimes our job is to lay the groundwork for others to finish.
 - (3) What Elijah expected to happen did not happen until much later period Elisha was the one that sent another prophet to anoint Jahu who would later kill the reigning king, which was Ahab son, and command Jezebel's servants to throw her down from the tower she was in. At this time Elijah was already taken up to heaven.

- (4) There was much groundwork that needed to be laid before Jezebel could be killed so that Israel could turn back to the Lord.
- (5) Elijah's job was to establish the school of the prophets which he ended up doing later, so that the land could be prepared by this group of people who were speaking into Israel. Elisha was the one who continued the school of prophets and Jahu was the one who helped turn the people back to the Lord. This was the job of a king not a prophet to establish worship back in the land.
- b) How past wounds can derail you from your purpose.
 - i) We need to be careful that we are not letting past wounds derail us from our purpose.
 - ii) Past wounds can do one of two things:
 - (1) they can either steal our purpose from us so that we are so afraid to step into that purpose and calling so we go in a completely opposite direction from the way God was leading us.
 - (2) Wounds can also shift our passions.
 - (a) Is there something that you are very passionate about because it happened to you?
 - (b) Is that something that you are supposed to be doing, is it your calling? Or is the enemy using that trauma to derail and distract you from your true calling and purpose?
- 6) How to know if God is breathing on your passion?
 - a) God has spoken into your calling (Most of the time through prophetic words)
 - i) Amos 3:7(CEV) - Whatever the Lord God plans to do, he tells his servants, the prophets.
 - b) Fruitfulness
 - i) John 15: 5 (CEV) - I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.
 - c) Internal desire
 - i) Psalm 37:4 (CEV) - Do what the Lord wants, and he will give you your heart's desire.
 - d) External qualification
 - i) 1 Peter 4:10 (CEV) - Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.
 - e) Corporate confirmation
 - i) It has been confirmed multiple times
 - f) It reflects on your personality, talents, and passions

- i) Not just one of these but all three
 - g) Consider how they intersect with the needs of the church and the world
 - h) You have deep joy, fulfillment, and a sense of purpose.
 - i) You have a deep sense of fulfillment when you are doing what you are called to do or when you are working towards what you are called to do.
 - i) Direct, audible calls from God
 - i) Again, your call and purpose has been confirmed multiple times
- 7) Serving in independence
 - a) Sometimes the wounds that we have received while serving can make us weary to serving with others.
 - b) God did not make us to only be dependent on ourselves or on him alone. He made us for fellowship. When he saw that Adam was lonely in the garden and that there was no one that could be a companion to him he made Eve.
 - i) God had made Adam to have everything inside of him to be able to pass on to the rest of the world. So that means That in Adam's heart mind and soul there was everything that the now billions of people on this world needed. He was complete as he was. But he still needed a companion. God recognized that he needed more than Himself to be fulfilled. So he separated Adam and put half of that in Eve just so Adam would not be alone. He made us to function and work together, one of us is not complete without the other.
- 8) How God uses the body of Christ to help us find our purpose
 - a) There are people that God has called us to serve with, this does not mean that that person is perfect. It means that that is the person that God is currently using to test us in the place that he is calling us to be.
 - b) Serving is a place of testing, God uses surveying to see if he has our yes and see if he can trust us in the little things.
 - c) If we do not do this with people, there is no place of testing.
 - i) Proverbs 27:17 (CEV) - Just as iron sharpens iron, friends sharpen the minds of each other.
 - d) Are there places in your life that you have been trying to serve independently from either God or the people that he has called you to serve, or serve with?
 - e) Right now, search your heart and ask the Lord:
 - i) Where have I been wounded that has caused me to serve apart from God and apart from the body of Christ?
 - ii) Is God breathing on my passion?
 - iii) Have I walked away from my purpose because of past wounds and ran after a passion that was a result of a wound or a trauma?
- 9) Ministry