

# Mark 10:45

## Serving

Image Church // Moving Forward: Week 9

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### Introduction

Well good morning Image Family! This is surreal in so many ways... You have no idea how incredible it is to see faces and people in front of me... *Joke...*

This is soft launch weekend for our in-person gathering and this is a very special moment in the life of our church, I so thankful for this opportunity that we have to be able to be together...

I want to thank you for your patience and endurance through this unique time in our world...

***Hey listen I know that we have kids in here with us today***, families I want to thank you for being here today- I want to speak to you for just a minuet...

I don't want you to worry about your kids, if they yell they yell, if they take off and run a lap it's all good... *We need some more charismatic folk up in here anyway!*

***The reality is that we have been gathering in living rooms all over the city for months***- I want us to think about this as one big living room and one big family during this season.

OK, really quick before we jump in this morning, I want to make sure that you are looped in on what's happening in the days ahead!

On **Saturday, November 14th** we're going to be having a big **Thanksgiving Potluck** where we are going to **eat, sing** and **sit under the Word** together...

And this potluck on **November 14th** is the kick-off for the start of **in-person** gatherings again! So, **from Nov. 14 on**, we'll be having in-person gatherings. An it's going to be happening here at **Orange Hill Baptist Church where I am this morning**.

*Now I know you might be wondering:*

- Why Orange Hill?
- Why Saturday?
- And for how long?

*Let me answer those for you...*

- We're at **Orange Hill** because we have a relationship with them, and right now it is the only thing available, they are allowing us to meet for free, and their facility has an 1100 seat auditorium where we can gather safely and adhere to the social distancing guidelines...
- We're gathering on **Saturday's** because that was the day they have given us to gather.
  - The good news is we can treat Saturday like a Sunday with our gathering time which will be a **10:30am**.
    - There will be a live stream service available before that at 9am.
  - There is a chance Sundays will open up and if they do we will make the transition to Sunday...
  - *Joke: Saturday was the original sabbath day anyway!*
- **How long**, that is contingent on East Cobb Middle School and the climate of COVID and its impact on the School. So, in the meantime, Orange Hill is going to serve as our temporary gathering space giving us the chance to gather.

- And for those of you who do not feel comfortable gathering we will also be providing a **live stream** option at both 9am and 10:30am.

**Let me give you a few other details** as it relates to the precautions that we're taking at this time...

- We are asking for all kids to join their family in the service. Once we are able to launch Image Kids safely and have the right volunteer ratios, we will launch Image Kids.
- We are asking everyone present to wear a mask while in the building.
- We have created a flow of one way in and one way out.
- We will be checking temperatures at the door on the way in.
- We will have hand sanitizer stations and masks available...

**So, there you go**, you can find all of this information and even more on our website at [imageATL.com/regathering](http://imageATL.com/regathering)... Exciting days ahead Image Family!

**Alright!** Well we're in the last week of our **Moving Forward** series where we've been looking at looking at *Progress in the Christian life* by keying in on the different **rhythms** and **spiritual disciplines** and **practices that the Bible prescribes** and **pressing in on them for the purpose of growing as followers of Jesus...**

As Christians we're called to **sanctification**- the process of change as a result of the gospel at work in us...

So, the **goal** is to challenge us to **grow as disciples** in light of who Jesus is and what He's done...

This week we're going to be looking at **servicing**...

**If you have your bible go ahead and turn to the book of Mark 8...**

*I want to set up the chair text for this morning with a passage that comes just a little bit before it in **Mark 8:34** let me read it for you...*

**If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.**

What I want you to see in this passage is what Jesus calls His followers to...

- By the way notice in this that Jesus isn't calling for you to fit him into your life- **He's calling for your entire life...**

He drives that home with 3 clear commands about what it means to follow Him...

**Deny, take up** and **follow**... This is the foundation where it all starts for Christians... *Let me flesh out these 3 commands* to make sure we understand them because this is going to be where we're going today...

**Deny**, is the first one, we are to **deny** ourselves access to the throne of our lives surrendering it to Jesus...

**take up our cross** is the second one... Meaning you identify with Jesus death laying down your life in submission to Jesus for who He is and what He's done... Life's no longer about you, it is about Him. So, *picking up our cross means that we live a life of total surrender to Christ.*<sup>1</sup>

And then **follow** is the third command... Following Jesus is the result of **denying** ourselves and **taking up** our cross... Following means that we actually follow Jesus, that we take up the ways of Jesus, that we are about the things of Jesus...

This is hard for us- **example** *my daughter following me in Target*...

- That's us...
- For some of you, you think you're following your dad, but you're really following a stranger...

<sup>1</sup> Bock, D. L. (1994). [Luke: 1:1-9:50](#) (Vol. 1, p. 853). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

We are called to follow Jesus... See the beauty of Christianity is that we always have to keep coming back to **deny, take up,** and **follow** in order to keep moving forward in our faith...

***Go ahead and flip over a page or 2 to Mark 10:45*** which will be the chair passage for today... You ready here it is...

## Mark 10:45

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

What I want you to see is that ***Jesus' main objective was service to the greatest degree in order to bring about worship to the greatest degree!***

### GOSPEL-

- Jesus served us with His life in our place.... His death in our place, and then he served us with His resurrection by extending to us the reality that it granted us, which is the new life and restoration between our relationship to God...
- All of this is a gift, none of it is owed, all of it was given as a gift through the greatest act of service the world would ever know...
- Press in here... on the service that Christ has extended to us...

Service characterized the life of Christ, and ***I want you to see the scope of his service...*** This is crazy, it's not just in the past, I want you to see the picture Jesus gives us of His return in the future...

## Luke 12:37

**37 Blessed will be those servants the master finds alert when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will get ready, have them recline at the table, then come and serve them.**

This is an incredible reality, and listen, in the meantime, His completed work continues to serve us each day guarding us, saving us, and sanctifying us...

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

So, if Jesus came to serve, and He tells His followers to follow Him, then what does that mean for us?

It means that we are called to live lives of service... See one of the things you have to understand about Christianity is that we are called to embody the person and work of Jesus...

- How?
  - Live like Him allow our lives to reflect his work...

***One of the ways that we embody the person and work of Jesus is not by going to the cross, but by laying our lives down through service for others because Jesus has gone to the cross...***

Like we talked about at the very beginning, we are called to follow Jesus... And that means letting go of our lives and grabbing hold of His...

And yet, here's what so hard- we see Jesus' life characterized by service, and yet **for so many people they claim Jesus, but they lack service...**

**Service was a foundational element of the Savior- you cannot claim to be one with him and yet not embody that!!**

***This is huge for us... So here's what I want to do, I want to give you some handles on how to navigate this, on how this looks...***

**I want you to watch how this plays out moving forward in the life of the church...**

We see this right out of the gate in the first church in **Acts 4:32-35**

**32** Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common. **33** With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them. **34** *For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need.*

**Picture this... There is a need... *Let me serve you by selling land or better yet let me sell a house...*** This is a picture of radical service...

We see it later on after the church had expanded and was even scattered in **1 Peter 4:10** ... Peter's talking to Christian Communities about how to live in light of Christ...

**10** Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

**God's grace has been poured out through gifts as a means for you to display His grace to others...** So, when you serve your being *distributors* of, or *stewards* of the grace that God's given you through the gifts that you have...

- You're saying God's served me with His life, so I will serve others...
- You're saying, what I have, has been given to me by God, so I want to use it in a way that points people back to Him...

Notice here that this *isn't optional* by the way... That if you're a Christian, not only do you have a gift, but it's to be used to serve others for the purpose of displaying God's grace...

- Which means that *if we're not serving others than we're not stewarding that which Jesus died to purchase for us...*

God has set up the church to be distributors of His grace through word and deed...

And then we see it in **Ephesians 4:15-16**... Where Paul is talking to the church in Ephesus about how the church should function...

**15** But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. **16** *From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.*

I love this... Paul's showing us that spiritual growth happens when each part of the body is working properly...

What does that look like, it looks like stewarding the gifts God has given each body part for the sake of serving one another (**1 Peter 4:10**)...

Serving is a means of spiritual maturity for both yourself and the rest of the body! *Which means that if as a church we don't have a culture of serving then we won't have a culture of growing!*

I wonder if for some of you, you're not satisfied, or your stagnant in your faith and the reason is because you're not using the gifts God has given you to serve?!?

If we want to see spiritual maturity, if you want to grow spiritually we have to be about service...

## Practically

***Let's talk Practically... I want you to walk away with 5 truths surrounding service***

**1. Serving is not a burden it's a blessing**

Hebrews 12:2 – for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross

**2. Service aligns us with Christ**

We serve because Christ served us... When we serve it disciplines us to keep our eyes on Jesus... We want to serve because Christ first served us... *Service is a tool that keeps our eyes fixed on Jesus*

### **3. Service is surrender in action**

**Picking up your cross...** identify with Jesus' death laying down your life in submission to Jesus for who He is and what He's done... Life's no longer about you, it is about Him. So, *picking up our cross means that we live a life of total surrender to Christ.*

You have been given gifts as a result of God's grace, a surrendered life uses those gifts as a way to display God's grace...

- You don't use the gifts exclusively for yourself, but you surrender them...

### **4. Service is a means of sanctification for you and for others**

When you serve it grows you and the rest of the body... Too much emphasis on what the church can do for us... Serving is for us as the church to grow together.. Serving is a tool God has given us..

## **Conclusion [VAMP]**

Now some of you are thinking *well, how do you know what your gift is?*

- What do you enjoy doing and how can you leverage it to serve others??
- What are you good at how can you leverage it through the church?

***Where should I serve...***

Rather than give you a list here is my challenge to you, I want you to go and evaluate this in your own life...

Even more I want you to ask yourself, is serving a rhythm of your life...

As a church do we have a culture of serving...

More than mobilizing you to a need, I want your heart to be one that is drawn to service...

***Make an appeal to the church....***

***Make and appeal to non-christian...***

***Pray***