

Day 9: Serving:

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

- **Mark 10:45**

Read:

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. - **Galatians 5:13-15***

Read the verses from Mark and Galatians out loud to yourself. Let these words sink into your soul.

Think:

We do not invite people to our weekend services to fill a seat and stop there. The hope is that through the teaching of God’s Word, we would see people transformed. We would see a desire for people to want to serve one another.

It is important to know that it is not the act of serving one another that brings about salvation for any of us. It is the power of God for salvation. (Romans 1:16-17)

The conviction to serve is an effect of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

What has happened in the Church in America today is this notion that we should all show up and be served.

Congregations have become consumers that look just like the world. We head to church on the weekend and have thoughts like, *“The parking team better know what they’re doing. The greeters better have a smile on their faces when they open the door for me. They had better have some fresh coffee made. The worship team needs to sing songs that I like to sing. The preaching better be quick, we have a football game to watch. I hope the youth guy isn’t preaching today...etc.”* The list could really go on and on.

This may be the craziest and most radical thing you may read today. The Church isn’t about you. It is about Jesus. But don’t get confused about this; Jesus was for you and he wants you to follow his lead.

Jesus perfectly modeled what it meant to be a servant. He faithfully did the will of the Father. This is such an incredible example of what it means to be in communion with the Creator. If he modeled servanthood, we should follow the example for the sake of God’s kingdom.

Thankfully, our salvation is not dependent on our service or obedience to Jesus, but rather Jesus’ service and obedience to the Father. But we must question whether Christ’s work is being done in you if you are not drawn to serve others out of love for God and for others.

Have you ever been mad at God for not doing a work in your life while at the same time you have never stood up to go serve someone else's life? I think we could all answer "yes" to this at some point in our lives.

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." - James 2:14-17

Our service to others and to the Lord is a by product of the Holy Spirit working in us.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

Pray:

Take this time to pray. Relinquish any unselfishness in your heart. Pray for God to reveal areas in your church, living, or work communities that you can serve others. Be in prayer with your small group and with your family about ways that you can serve one another. Pray the words of Galatians 6:2. Pray for God to move you into a place of compassion for others not for the sake of your glory or honor, but for His.