

7

Summer Decisions



SERVE– July 2, 2017
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In this series, 7 Summer Decisions, we will collectively be challenged to make a decision. This series is fundamentally based on the power of choices.

Serving Goes Against Our Natural Tendencies:

- The Tension is this:
 - According to Jesus, life is not all about us
 - Culture tries to tell us it is – in EVERY aspect
- BIG PRINCIPLE = One of the quickest ways to forget about God is to be consumed with self.
- Jesus gave us some very direct words...

Matthew 16:24, Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Jesus is an Example of Humble Service

- *Philippians 2:1-11,*
- Foundation of Paul’s teaching is simple = Follow Jesus’ example.
- Only through servanthood can you be obedient to God’s call on your life.

Practical Understanding of Servanthood

1. Being a servant means giving up my rights for others
 - *Jesus did not hold on to his rights as God.*
 - He was not looking out for himself but for others.

2. Being a servant means becoming less so others can become more.
 - Our fallen/flesh nature is not interested in being emptied but in being filled.
 - We need to desire that others become more at our expense.
3. Being a servant is about being not just doing.
 - We tend to look for the BIG experience when trying to serve others in some heroic fashion.
 - Serving others really should happen in our SMALL daily actions.

Martin Luther King says, "the only requirement to serve is a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

Cup of Cold Water

Matthew 10:42, And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

- Jesus does not differentiate between acts of service to others.
- Servanthood is more than a feeling, it is a choice.

Blessings We Get From Serving:

- We discover and develop our spiritual gifts
- Allows us to sometimes experience a miracle
- Feel the joy of being obedient
- Increases our faith
- Helps us be more like Jesus

Fifth Summer Decision

Today, I make the decision to SERVE others!