



Sermon Title: All In

Date: 6/30/2024

When we serve in the name of Jesus, we have an eternal impact.

Big Idea: Serve in any capacity that you can

We're going to look at two reasons to serve.

1. You have a new nature in Jesus

Romans 6:20-23

Paul wrote to the church in Rome, gave them wisdom, and reminded them about the transformative power of Jesus. In verse 20, Paul talks about their past. He calls them “slaves of sin... free regarding righteousness.” This truth applies not only to them before they received Jesus but also to us before we received Jesus.

Here, Paul presents people with the truth that you are either a slave to sin or you are a slave to righteousness. This is consistent with scripture saying that we cannot serve two masters, as Jesus says in **Matthew 6:24**.

Following Jesus involves us walking away from and abandoning all other masters. If we attempt to serve two, we end up splitting our loyalties. Think about the disciples: (**Matthew 9:9, Mark 1:16-18**)

In verse 21, Paul asks his audience what good it brought them to be unrighteous. Then, in verses 22-23, Paul offers the encouragement we all need. This is where the idea of being set apart is addressed. Fruit is the direct result of whatever is ruling our hearts. There is a contrast between the fruit of the two masters that can rule our hearts. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

Eternal life is a gift graciously given to us by God and is only available through a relationship with Jesus Christ. By choosing that relationship and accepting that free gift, we have received mercy from God (**1 Peter 2:9-10**).

Believers in Jesus have been set apart from the rest of the world. Not set in front of to act like we're better than, or set behind, but set apart. Our ability to serve in the name of Jesus starts with this truth: to know what Jesus has done for you and how He has changed you. Through a relationship with Him, you've gone from a slave to sin to being a person who has received mercy and the gift of eternal life.

2. To bring the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

John 18:36 Jesus tells us about His kingdom. His kingdom is already established and rooted in heaven, with a foundation of peace that His followers experience when they follow Him. He also tells us that the kingdom of God is within us! (**Luke 17:20-21**).

From the scripture, we know that God's kingdom is not of this world but at the same time in the midst of us. How does that make sense, and how does that help us develop an attitude of servanthood? We must realize that the kingdom of God isn't meant for one specific place or group of people. It's intended to go EVERYWHERE! So how can we ensure, through our service, that the kingdom of God is brought here on earth and goes EVERYWHERE? There are three ways we'll talk about it-

1. Make God's will your number one priority!

Matthew 6: 9-10 records Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and He teaches His disciples how to pray to the Father. First, He teaches them to appeal to God, honor Him, and pray for an advancement of the kingdom and will of God on earth. They pray for the reign of Christ to increase in the hearts of every human being. As disciples of Christ, we are to do the same.

2. Seek the Kingdom for yourself

Matthew 6:33. Believers are to place God, His will, and His kingdom over everything else in their lives. His kingdom and the safety and security that it offers us are greater and more comforting than anything that the world can offer us to seek and chase after.

3. Realize that you have a great mission

Matthew 28:19-20 is a calling and mission extended to the disciples that come with great comfort from Jesus to close Matthew's gospel. Disciples are not people who simply support Jesus' mission. They are learners, students, and those who completely devote their lives to Christ. They don't have to sit in a classroom, but they're people who are driven by the work of Jesus in their lives to learn to be more like Him. Those who are redeemed and who want to bring the kingdom here.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- How different would the church look if no one served?
- At Grace, there are over 25 ministry areas that you can participate in including youth ministry, children's ministry, tech services, live stream, etc. What is the main thing holding you back if you are not serving?
- Who would you explain the Kingdom of Heaven? Is it the responsibility of Christians to expand it?
- Is God's will your number one priority? If not, then what is?