

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Serve Like Jesus

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
August 16, 2026



- You can admire Jesus without changing your life.
- But you cannot truly follow Jesus without orienting your life around Him.

John 12:20-26 (NLT) Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration ²¹paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." ²² Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵ Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. ²⁶ Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honour anyone who serves me.

1) Jesus calls Followers, not Fans.

²⁶ "Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me..."

- To Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, & Do what Jesus did - That's discipleship.
- Am I simply a fan of Jesus, or am I following Jesus?

2) Following Jesus means Surrendering Control.

²⁵ "Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity."

- Following Jesus means surrendering our right to be in charge of our own lives.
- Jesus doesn't want to be an addition to our lives. He wants to be Lord of our lives.

^{24b} "...Unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives."

3) Followers Join Jesus where He is Serving.

"Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am."

- When we serve, people should get a glimpse of Jesus.

Big Idea: To follow Jesus is to serve Jesus, & to serve Jesus is to serve like Jesus.

Application:

- Who is Jesus inviting me to notice?
- What is Jesus inviting me to do?
- Where is Jesus already at work?



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Serve Like Jesus
#1 of 6 - August 16, 2026

Context

1. What is happening in John 12:20–26? Why do you think it is significant that these Greeks specifically wanted to “meet Jesus” during Passover week?
2. Jesus responds to the request to see Him by talking about a kernel of wheat dying and producing a harvest. What does this tell us about what was about to happen to Jesus and what it means to follow Him?

Observation

3. In verse 26, Jesus says, “Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me.” What words or ideas in this passage stand out to you about the relationship between following Jesus and serving Jesus?
4. Jesus contrasts loving our life in this world with being willing to surrender it for eternity. What do you notice about Jesus’ expectations of those who follow Him?

Meaning

5. What is the difference between being a “fan” of Jesus and actually being a follower of Jesus? What are some ways someone could admire Jesus without actually orienting their life around Him?
6. What does it practically mean to surrender control to Jesus? Why can surrendering our right to be “in charge” of our own lives be difficult?

Application

7. Think about the three questions from the sermon: Who is Jesus inviting me to notice? What is Jesus inviting me to do? Where is Jesus already at work? Which of these questions challenges you most right now, and why?
8. If to follow Jesus is to serve Jesus, and to serve Jesus is to serve like Jesus, what is one specific step you could take this week to serve someone in a way that helps them get a glimpse of Jesus?



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