

THANK-FULL (part 2)

“THANKFUL FOR SERVANTS”

Illustration Items Needed:

My 2 letter-jackets
Tennis racket & balls
Empty 5 gallon water bottle
A small white towel
Sledge hammer

Opening thoughts about “Thankfulness”

- Thankful that the Lord still sees value in me and hasn't given up on me when others may have. Others may have thought that I was worthy of being put out with the trash, but God said that he still sees value in me in spite of my past. He still wants to use things from my past to encourage someone else for their future. Amen? (Letter-jacket illustration / pic on screen on my cue)

Who Is the Greatest?

Football: Tom Brady? Peyton Manning? Aaron Rodgers?

Basketball: Larry Bird? Michael Jordan? LeBron James?

Boxing: Ali? Frasier? Rocky Marciano?

Golf: Ben Hogan? Tiger Woods? Byron Nelson? Arnold Palmer?

Matthew 18:1-5

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” **2** And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them **3** and said, “**Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom**

of heaven. **4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

- story about Blake breaking his glasses at the altar.
- story about Garrett encouraging us to give our vacation fund in the offering.

The scene: the disciples have have been selected as first round draft picks, left their places or normalcy, witnessed healings, signs and wonders, all while growing in their faith in the Lord. Then, Peter, James,, and John are led up a high mountain, when all of a sudden Jesus in his resurrected body stands before them and scares them to death. A cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Then suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. Then, they came down from the mountain and joined the other disciples. They saw a large crowd around them and teachers of the law arguing with people in the crowd about something. Jesus then discovers that there's a boy who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed the boy of speech. Not only that, but when this happens, he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes completely rigid. The father of the boys tells Jesus: "I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of the boy and to never enter him again. The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out.

Mark 9:30-35 (NIV)

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, 31 because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” 32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

- using the sledge hammer in Florida
- towel illustration
- tennis illustration

THANKFUL FOR SERVANTS

SERVANTS ARE A SIGN THAT PROVES THAT THE VISION ISN'T STAGNANT.

Nehemiah 13:13

In charge of the storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered reliable, and it was their task to distribute to their kinsmen.

WITHOUT SERVANTS, THERE IS NO KINGDOM PRODUCTIVITY.

Productivity - the efficiency of production of goods or services expressed by some measure. Measurements of productivity are often expressed as a ratio of an aggregate output to a single input or an aggregate input used in a production process, i.e. output per unit of input, typically over a specific period of time.

Example: as of Sept. 25, a record 62 cargo ships were waiting to dock at the port of Los Angeles and Long Beach. A product without activity is how we could describe that situation. Therefore, a product without activity will never achieve productivity. Action and activity are a must in order for there to be productivity.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

WHEN SERVANTS ARE FUNCTIONING IN THEIR CALLING, SEEDS OF GREATNESS ARE RELEASED INTO THE SOIL IN WHICH THEY SERVE.

JUST AS A BUILDING WILL COLLAPSE WITHOUT INTEGRAL SUPPORT, SO WILL A VISION COLLAPSE WITHOUT SERVANTS.

SERVANTS IN THIS HOUSE (play slides here)

1. Prayer Team / intercessors
2. Greeters
3. Children's Ministry Team
4. Jr. High / High School Ministry Team
5. Sound / Media Team

- 6.** Nursery Team
- 7.** Worship Team
- 8.** Custodial / Maintenance Team
 - Bruce Bilton
 - Pastor Jeremy Stickall
 - Madison Fisher
 - Tonya Miller
- 9.** Ambassadors Leadership Team
- 10.** Cafe' Team
 - Amanda's triple-shot
- 11.** Women's Ministry Team
- 12.** Men's Ministry Team
- 13.** Board of Directors