

# **Serving:** THE CALL TO GREATNESS

May 31, 2026



# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

**Matthew 20:20–23 (NIV) — 20** Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. **21** “What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” **22** “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. **23** Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

**Matthew 20:24–28 (NIV)** 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## The Way To Greatness In The Kingdom

- *“whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant”*
- The Model & Heart Of Christ Is To Serve
- Jesus Is The Greatest Example Of Giving A Life In Service
- He Humbled Himself As He Came To Live And Serve Us

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Jesus Took On The Form Of A Servant

- **Philippians 2:7–9 (NIV)** — 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name
- The Very Reason That Jesus Was Exalted By God Was Because He First Became A Servant.

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

***Matthew 20:26–28 (NIV) — ... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***

- **Greatness In The Kingdom *Is The Opposite Of Greatness In The World***
- Kingdom Greatness Flows Through Servanthood And Serving— Not Thru Leading, Commanding, Managing

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

**Servant (minister, deacon) = “diakonos”**

- **Dia** (through) + **konis** (dust) –
  - *“One who hurries through the dust to carry out his service.”*
  - *To hasten after, to pursue and to run errands.*

**SERVING is caring for those in prison** (Mt 25:44),

- **Serving tables** (i.e., *meeting physical needs*) (Ac 6:2),
- **Teaching the Word of God** (Ac 6:4),
- **Giving money to meet others' needs** (2Co 9:1),
- **Service offered by Christians to others to build them up in faith** (1Co 12:5; Ep 4:12).

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## The Paradox Of Christian Greatness

- *Greatness In The Eyes Of Jesus Is A Matter Of The Heart.*
- *It Describes Our Character*

***Greatness Is Not Tied To Self-Promotion, It Is Tied To Humility “The Greatest Will Be The Least”***

- *Greatness Comes To Us... When We Are The Ones Who Diligently And Persistently Serve Others.*
- **James 4:10 (NIV)** — 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Service To The Lord Is Rewarding And Purposeful

- **1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)** — 58 ... Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
- ***Our Future Hope Motivates Our Present Faithfulness***

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## When You Serve Unto The Lord You Receive An Inheritance

- **Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)** — 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
- If We Are Serving Due To Our Love And Obedience To The Lord --He Will Reward Us With An Inheritance

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Service To One Another Is Service To The Lord

- **1 Peter 4:10–11 (NIV)** — 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Serving One Another Is Serving The Lord

- **Galatians 5:13 (NIV)** — 13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
- **Galatians 6:2 (NIV)** — 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

# **Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS**

**All Believers Should Find A Place Of Serving In The Church**

- A fundamental aspect of Christian discipleship And Of The church's proper functioning

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Service Is A Core Expression Of Faith

- *Christians are called to serve other believers*
- *Service is inseparable from the Christian life*
- **John 13:14–15 (NIV)** — 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
- *It Is Time For Us To Pick Up The Servants' Towel And Serve Our Brothers And Sisters As Unto The Lord.*

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Finding Our Place Of Service Strengthens Both Us As Individual Believers – And Us As The Church

- It Mobilizes The Congregation
- *“No single factor has greater potential for building a strong, healthy church than mobilizing the congregation to serve God gladly and effectively.”*

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## The Exponential Effect

- Impact becomes exponential as believers understand their role
- Transformation occurs as people who Serve shift from consumers to contributors
- Those Who Serve fulfill a church's normal needs
- Those Who Serve open countless doors into our communities
- **A Church That promotes Serving will demonstrate a vibrant missional focus**

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## **What Are The Benefits To Those Who Serve**

- 1. Deepened Love And Intimacy With God*
- 2. Spiritual Transformation And Mental Clarity*
- 3. Time Spent in Serving is Rewarding*
- 4. Serving Influences Every Attitude And Action You Take*

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## Serving Is Fulfilling And Life-Changing

- *It Ignites Faith And Expectancy*
- *Serving offers more growth potential—than any other step a believer can take in their spiritual journey*
- *Many Christians miss this reality*

# Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS

## God Has Something For You To Do

- *He Wants You To Discover Your Hidden Capacity*
- *If You Have A Desire To Serve – And You Wait On The Lord*
- *There Is Something You Can Do To Serve*
- *You Can Be An Effective Witness For Christ*
- *You Can Find A Place To Serve Him*

# **Serving: THE CALL TO GREATNESS**

## **What Steps Can A Believer Take To Serve Effectively?**

1. Worship Empowers Serving; Serving Expresses Worship.
2. Develop A Servant's Mindset
3. Be Committed To Serving
4. Prioritize Building The Body
5. Address Real Needs Within The Body
6. Take Action