WAVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Week 10: Service — Discipleship Expressed Outward

📖 INTRODUCTION

Service brings the inner work of spiritual disciplines into the outer world. Prayer, fasting, solitude, these reorient us to God. But service is how that reorientation gets expressed. It's the evidence that transformation is real. When you serve others, you're saying: I'm not the center of this story. God is. And his love extends to everyone. Service is discipleship lived out.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 20:26-28 | Galatians 5:13 | 1 Peter 4:10 | Matthew 25:31-46

SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN

Jesus tells his disciples: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." This flips the power structure. In Jesus's kingdom, greatness isn't measured by authority or status, but by how much you humble yourself to serve others. Jesus then models this by washing the disciples' feet, the most degrading task of the time.

Paul writes: "Serve one another humbly in love." Not as a means to an end. Not to gain status or feel good about yourself. Out of love. Because the other person matters.

Peter says God has given everyone gifts, and we should use them to serve others. It's not that some people serve and others are served. Everyone serves. Your particular gifts, your personality, your skills, they're given to you for the sake of others.

Matthew 25 describes judgment day. The righteous are surprised when Jesus praises them for caring for the hungry, the sick, the prisoner. "When did we do this?" they ask. Jesus responds: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." Service to the vulnerable is service to Jesus himself.

💭 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who has served you sacrificially? What did their service teach you?

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2. What keeps us from serving? Pride? Fear? Busyness? Lack of vision?

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3. Jesus washed feet, a servant's task, to teach about greatness. How does this redefine success?

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4. Where do you currently serve? Is it authentic, or is it performance?

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5. What gift do you have that could serve others? Who needs it?

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💡 APPLICATION

Service changes you. When you regularly humble yourself to care for others, your perspective shifts. You realize people are more important than comfort. You experience the interdependence Jesus modeled. You become less defensive, less selfish, less afraid.

Service to the vulnerable is especially transformative. Jesus made it clear: care for the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the stranger. Not as charity that keeps you at a distance, but as actual relationship. You learn their names. You hear their stories. You're changed by knowing them.

The spiritual disciplines we've practiced all lead to this: a life of humble, sacrificial service. Prayer strengthens you to serve. Scripture teaches you what serving looks like. Fasting and silence humble you. Community and hospitality practice relationships. Generosity trains your heart to release. Sabbath reminds you that you're not the source. And then: service. Love expressed in action. Discipleship lived out.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. When have you served and felt the presence of God? What made that experience different?

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2. Who in your church or community is often overlooked? How could you serve them?

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3. What keeps you from serving more regularly? What barriers are real, and which are just resistance?

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4. What barriers keep you from serving more? How could you remove them?

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5. What would it look like to build a life where service is central, not peripheral?

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🎯 WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, serve. Find a need, in your church, your community, your neighborhood and meet it. Serve at a food bank. Visit someone lonely. Offer practical help. Do it without expectation of recognition. Do it because Jesus serves through you. Who did you meet? What did you learn? How did that experience change you?