



July 26, 2026 | Pastor Eric Smith

LifeMaxxing Through Service

Mark 10:45 NLT

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Introduction:

The fullest life is found in allowing Jesus to serve others through us. "LifeMaxxing" describes the pursuit of the fullest, healthiest, and most successful version of yourself. Many picture the good life as having more people serve them; Jesus pictures the good life as becoming a servant. Many say greatness means moving upward; Jesus says greatness often means bending downward. We serve because He served. We bend down because He came down. We give ourselves because He gave Himself. As Jesus approached the cross, He reached for a basin and a towel.

Outline:

1. Bend Low: Greatness Takes Up the Towel

John 13:1-5 NLT

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ²It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God

and would return to God. ⁴So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

2. Build Up: Every Gift Can Fill a Gap

John 13:12–15

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

1 Peter 4:10–11 NLT

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

3. Bring Christ: Every Place can Become a Place of Service

Colossians 3:17, 23–24 NLT

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father...Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have I been served by Jesus Christ?
Have I allowed Christ to wash me, forgive me, and make me His own?
2. Where am I currently serving?
How am I actively using what God has given me to strengthen someone else?
3. Who is God placing in front of me?
Could my next opportunity to serve be across the table, hallway, office, or street?

This Week's Assignment

- **Bend low** - Do something helpful that might normally feel beneath you.
- **Build up** - Use one of your gifts to encourage or strengthen someone else.
- **Bring Christ** - Serve someone outside a church program in a way that reflects the character and love of Jesus.