

SERMON SERIES: Relation-shift: From “Serve Me” to “I Will Serve You”

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Key Line

Love is using what I’ve been given to meet the needs of others.

Introduction

Would you rather serve or be served? Do you find it easy or difficult to serve others?

Seek the Word

Read Matthew 20: 17-28.

- Note the context (verses 17-19) ...the serious topic that Jesus has just shared with his disciples.
- Then how “wild” that James and John, with their mother, came to ask this selfish request.
- We don’t want to “disciple-bash”, though. So, can you think of times when you were selfish, and self-serving, like James and John?

As noted in verse 28, Jesus is the ultimate example of a servant, and of servant-leadership. As we read these next two passages, look for how Jesus exemplifies this.

- Philippians 2: 5-8 (if time, read verses 1-4 first).
- John 13: 2-5, 12-17.

Share insights that we can learn from Jesus about serving. (Ex: John 13:3: It’s easier to be humble and to serve, when we are confident of our spiritual identity as a child of God.)

Talk About It

Think about your various relationships. In general:

- who is the focus: you, or the other person?
- are you more of a giver , or a taker?

Have you ever lived with, or been around, or worked for, someone who loves power? Or, has that power-hungry “non-servant” ever been you?

Reflect on this 3-part question, and then share thoughts/answers: Am I honoring God through how I serve ...my family? ...my church family? ...my community?

How could becoming more of a servant change my various relationships?

Revisit the Key Line. How could I apply that to my current season of life?