

SERMON NOTES

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Rhythms: Spiritual Training for Everyday Life Serving

Train yourself to be godly. “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT)

Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people...But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.” Luke 22:25-27 (NLT)

“Everything they do is done for people to see...The greatest among you must be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV)

Sinful pride is an inflated sense of self-importance, self-sufficiency, or self-centeredness that leads one to reject dependence on God and to disregard others.

Types of service (Richard Foster, John Ortberg)

1. The service of hiddenness – acts of service that are done anonymously
2. The service of small things (the mundane) – little things that can make a big difference
3. The service of being served – the inability to be served can be a sign of pride
4. The service of courtesy – showing politeness and kindness in our everyday lives
5. The service of being interruptible (availability) – setting aside my priorities or agenda to be available to others
6. The service of holding your tongue (or keeping your mouth shut)

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



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You are God's masterpiece – you are uniquely designed by God to do what only you can do!

Finding Your SHAPE to Serve (Rick Warren)

1. Spiritual Gifts – How has God gifted me to serve?
2. Hear (Passions) – What am I passionate about?
3. Abilities – What am I good at?
4. Personality – How has God wired me to serve?
5. Experiences – how has life taught me to serve?

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. John 13:3-5 (NIV)

If you want to be great in the kingdom of God, pick up a towel!

"If you want to be great—wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness. By giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve...You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant." Martin Luther King Jr

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. How would you rate yourself when it comes to the spiritual practice of serving? Do you volunteer your time for any organization or ministry? Are you intentional in serving your family and/or friends?
2. How does the world define greatness? What is the measure of a great man or woman in the eyes of the world?
3. How does Jesus define greatness? What is the measure of a great man or great woman in the kingdom of God?
4. How would you define pride? How would you define humility? Pastor Rick Warren says that humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. How does this quote help clarify what humility is or isn't?
5. Review the list of spiritual practices related to service. Which ones stand out to you as areas where you may need practice?



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6. Review the different ways to determine your SHAPE. How does your unique shape prepare you for serving others?
7. If you are interested in taking a spiritual gifts test or learning more about serving opportunities at MCC, go to www.maplecitychapel.org/serve/.
8. As we prepare to launch a third service, please prayerfully consider:
 - a. Attending first or third service to make room for people in the second service
 - b. Signing up to serve at MCC at least once a month
9. What are some examples of how you can “wash the feet” of the people around you this week?

