

Pt 8 - SERVICE - Born to Serve

Ephesians 2:10 (niv)

The Bible says we're created to serve, we're gifted to serve and we are all meant to make a contribution.

... WPCC Core Value of 'Service'

We are a unified community that uses our spiritual gifts, resources and abilities for the extension of God's plan.

... We are to serve God by serving others

1 Peter 4:8-11 (niv)

The Bible has a word for serving God - it's called “*ministry*”. Any time we use our talents to help somebody else, we are ministering and we are serving.

God not only created us for service, He gave us a model to follow.

Matthew 20:28 (tlb) *Jesus: “Your attitude must be like My Own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve...”*

Jesus encourages us to give our life away in order to find it.

We get our self-worth from being used by God.

Learning to serve like Jesus

... Serving like Jesus means making ourselves available.

Matthew 20:30-32 (niv)

If we want to be used by God, we must be willing to be interrupted.

Most of Jesus' ministry and most of Jesus' miracles were interruptions.

Proverbs 3:28 (tev) *Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.*

Servant-hearted people don't procrastinate. They're spontaneous.

What prevents us from being available to serve?

- **Being self-centered**

Philippians 2:4 (msg) *Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*

The number one enemy of compassion is busyness. We just get too busy! And because we're so busy, we don't have time to serve.

Real servants don't mind being interrupted.

But we all have this self-centeredness that gets in the way from time to time.

- **Wanting everything to be perfect**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (nlt) *If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done.*

Real servants, Christ-like servants, do the best they can with what they have. They don't wait for the perfect conditions or setting or the perfect offer.

- **The pursuit of wealth and Materialism**

Luke 16:13 (niv)

We can get so busy trying to accumulate wealth and possessions that we don't allocate time to take care of people. We can't take our possessions to heaven.

... We need to have a grateful attitude in serving Jesus.

Psalm 100:2 (kjv) *Serve the Lord with gladness.*

We serve God with gratefulness because He's given life to us through Jesus.

... We need to have the right motivations in serving Jesus.

Matthew 6:1 (cev) *When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven.*

Self-promotion and servant-hood don't mix. Wrong motivations don't last. Wrong motivations get us caught up with the wrong things.

... We need to be faithful in serving Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (tev) *The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful...*

We don't give up serving Jesus. We keep on serving. We don't quit in the middle of our assignment.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (msg) *Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.*

At the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, Jesus said this in; **John 17:4** (niv) *I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do.*

Jesus was faithful in fulfilling His service. He didn't give up. He didn't give in.

Any time we're serving Jesus, no matter how small - it matters. Why? Because in God's eyes, there is no little service! In God's eyes – it ALL counts!

Real servants do every task with equal dedication because they know it all matters.

We can do two things with our life. We can waste it, or can invest it!

Matthew 25:21 (niv)