Sermon Notes for October 4, 2015

The Normal Christian Life – Serve

Matthew 20:25-28

Introduction

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.” Matthew 20:25-27

If you want to be great in God’s kingdom, learn to serve.

I. The Example of Service.

We see it in Jesus.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

We see it in the Apostle Paul.

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle.” Romans 1:1

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” II Corinthians 5:14-15

“If Christ be God and died for me, there is nothing too great that I could do for him.” C.T. Studd

Paul was constrained by love. Duty alone isn’t enough.

II. The Cost of Service.

There is a cost to service. Luke 14:25-35

“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27

Following Jesus means saying no to self and giving our time, energy and resources to serve God and others.

What makes it hard for you to serve others?

Serving can be messy, costly, inconvenient, draining and demanding.

But it is not all like that.
III. The Joy of Service.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

Everyone has a gift and we all need to use them.

When you are serving in your “sweet spot”, there is an alignment between your ministry and your passion and gifts. There is joy in seeing God use you to bless others.

What gives you joy in serving?

IV. The Reward of Service.

Joy is a reward.

Spiritual Fruit – seeing God at work.

Think of what God has done in 30 years!

There are blessings still to come.

‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Matthew 25:21

No one out gives God.

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

Conclusion

Where will you serve?