



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Volunteers vs Servants

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Prayer

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the examples you gave and the lessons you taught on serving others. I am thankful to be a part of an 'upside down kingdom' where the first shall be last and the last shall be first. It is a joy to serve in your kingdom. As I step out and find new ways to serve, I desire for your name to be lifted high. Amen."

Message Theme

Serve To Empower The Kingdom

Key Truths

Jesus teaches us about serving in the book of John.

Moments before Jesus's betrayal he still had a lesson to teach his disciples. He took what was left of his precious time to wash their feet and instruct them on how to serve others. Jesus took off his robe to be able to serve his disciples. He showed us that we need to lay aside our position to serve others. When we are able to get our eyes off of ourselves, we can see God moving around us.

The call of Christians is to serve, yet when we are the ones that serve others we end up feeling blessed ourselves.

When Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment?" he responded with:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" He is saying Love God, love people.

Christianity isn't just what we believe, it's what we do with what we believe. We can believe what Jesus did but not have it change our life. Social justice without spiritual justice is an injustice. In other words, if we feed someone's body but not their soul and spirit, in the name of the Lord, it's an injustice.

The difference between a volunteer and a servant is on the inside, it's a heart posture.

- Volunteering causes people to look at people and serving points people to God. A volunteer can fall into the trap of keeping track of how much they have given and what they have sacrificed.
- A servant is there to serve God, add value to others, and show God's love. They are looking to a heavenly reward and serve as a result of the things Jesus has done for them. The cry of a servant is to want to touch people's lives for the sake of the kingdom and the glory of God. Servants do inconvenient things at inconvenient times.

Practical Application

It's not about what we do but about having gratitude for what God has done. In what ways are you serving? Or where could you be serving?

If you are interested in serving at Res Life, check out our ministries and apply to serve at <https://reslife.org/serve/>

Reference Verses

- John 13:1-5, 12-17, & 14-17
- Romans 12:16, 1:1
- Matthew 20:28, 22:36-40, 5:16, 23:11-12, 5:14-16
- Revelation 22:12
- Ephesians 2:10
- Luke 22:24-27, 10:25-37, 14:16-24
- 2 Peter 1:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-18, 3:10-15
- Philippians 2:5-8
- Isaiah 14:13-14

Declarations (Speak Out Loud)

"My desire through serving is not that I would get more credit, but that others would see the goodness of God when they look at me."

"Here I am Lord, send me".

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture Reference

Volunteers vs Servants

John 13:1-5 NKJV Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

John 13:14-17 NIV Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Romans 12:16 ESV Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Matthew 20:28 NKJV "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 22:36-40 NKJV "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

Matthew 16:25 NKJV ...but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Revelation 22:12 NKJV "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Luke 22:25-26 NKJV And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the

contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.

John 13:14-17 NKJV If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Romans 1:1 NKJV Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle...

2 Peter 1:1 NKJV Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ...

Deuteronomy 15:10-18 NKJV REF "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed; you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. *From what* the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today. And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you, then you shall take an awl and thrust *it* through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise. It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 NKJV For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

Matthew 20:28 NKJV "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Romans 12:16 ESV Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Mark 8:36 NKJV For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Philippians 2:5-7 NKJV Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 NKJV And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Revelation 22:12 NKJV “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

Isaiah 14:13-14 NKJV ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’

Luke 10:25-37 NKJV REF And behold, a certain [a]lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading *of it*?” So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among [b]thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, [c]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV REF Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second [b]death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 NKJV REF According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.