

02/15/04 – “YOU WERE SHAPED FOR SERVING GOD” – MINISTRY

He prepared us for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them – Eph. 2:10

Ministry is service that flows out of a redeemed life wherever we go & whatever we do – Not just for professional clergy

We are to have 200 ministers in our church, 200 members of the worship team, 200 intercessors, 200 extenders of pastoral care

We were called to full time ministry the day we gave ourselves to Christ – Not to be passive spectators but active participants

Christ-like servant-hood is counter-cultural to the self-centeredness of our generation

The only ones among you that will be really happy are those who have sought & found how to serve - **Albert Schweitzer**

Find a need & fill it – In the church, outside the church, wherever we go we can be servants!

A man's gift will make a way for himself - **We serve God by serving others** – By its very nature serving is sacrificial & “other centered”

The Lord is less concerned about your ability than your availability...Are you available to serve on His terms, for His purposes?

BEING A SERVANT

Christ is our example - “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” – Matthew 20:28

The Lord came to serve – To wash our feet – To heal – To give hope - To proclaim – To set captives free – Isaiah 61

Leaders are to be servants; not to lord or intimidate - Like the disciples, leaders often struggle with placement & recognition

Greatness to God is not about fame or fortune or even anointing, but about humility, obedience & servanthood

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, & all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” – John Wesley

An attitude of heart...pressing towards the mark! We need to rid ourselves of our petty rights & being offended in our service

Servants are doers

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” – James 1:22

If you want to get something done, ask the busiest person in this church – Not saluting busyness, but productive people, doers

Knowing something is not doing something - We may be very smart, know the Bible, have wonderful insights; **but what do we do for others?**

Servanthood is more than abstract thinking – Actions speak louder than words – **Words & deeds will ultimately reveal our creeds**

ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE IN NEED

“The story of the Good Samaritan” – **Luke 10:30-37 Start seeing the needs of people around us**

“Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.” – 1 Corinthians 10:24

“Regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Ph.2:4

We can't care without being aware - Wounded people are all around us – Look & see...through love serve one another

Slow down the pace to see those around you, divine appointments, spiritual sensitivity, comforting & praying

Sympathize with people's pain - Burden bearing... *“Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2*

Nothing too small or insignificant – Being faithful in that which is least...even a cup of water

“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward.”

May we give up our pride & predispositions to avoid service that is inconvenient or difficult...**Serving unto the Lord!**

The best course to overcome worry, self-condemnation & melancholy is to go deliberately forth & try to help someone else

Serving God begins with seeing the need, sympathizing with others in pain & taking action for their good!

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, ‘Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it,’ when you have it with you.” – Pr. 3:27 & 28 We are not to serve from guilt, But from love – **Seize the moment, meet the need!**