

SERVE

As you read the Bible, you'll notice something that marked Jesus everywhere He went: He served people. Jesus didn't simply teach from a distance. He touched lepers. He fed hungry crowds. He washed dirty feet. He noticed the overlooked, welcomed the outsider, comforted the hurting, and gave Himself for the sake of others. His life wasn't centered on being served. It was centered on serving.

If we are truly following Jesus, serving isn't an optional activity we add to our lives when we have extra time. It becomes one of the clearest expressions of becoming like Him. Serving is more than volunteering. It's more than filling a position on a ministry schedule. And it's more than doing good deeds to earn God's approval. Serving is the natural overflow of a heart that has been changed by the love of Christ.

Serve

choosing compassionate action over personal convenience

God doesn't need our help. He is fully capable of accomplishing His purposes without us. Instead, God invites us to serve because He chooses to work through us and because serving changes us. Every act of compassion loosens the grip of selfishness. Every sacrifice teaches us to place someone else's needs ahead of our own convenience. Every opportunity to serve shapes us into people who increasingly resemble Jesus.

Sometimes serving happens through a ministry at church. Other times it happens in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, or communities. It may mean giving our time, using our abilities, meeting a practical need, encouraging someone who is hurting, or simply noticing a person everyone else has overlooked. In every setting, the question is the same: How can I love others the way Jesus has loved me? That's the heart of serving. Following Jesus isn't simply about knowing what He taught. It's about living the way He lived. And people who follow Jesus become people who serve.

Remember...

The goal isn't simply to volunteer more often.

The goal is to become more like Jesus.

Day 1

Gifted to make a Difference

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10–11

Peter reminds believers that every Christian has received a gift from God. These abilities are not earned or intended for personal recognition. They are gifts of God's grace, entrusted to us so we can serve others and strengthen the body of Christ. The purpose of every spiritual gift is the same: to bring glory to God, not attention to ourselves. When we serve in God's strength rather than our own, people see more than our abilities. They see God's grace at work through us. Every act of service, whether public or behind the scenes, becomes an opportunity to point others to Christ. The church is healthiest when every believer faithfully uses the gifts God has given.

Application

One of the most important ways we follow Jesus is to **Serve** the people around us. The purpose of spiritual gifts isn't to make much of ourselves. It's to make much of Jesus. When you encourage someone, welcome a guest, pray with someone who's hurting, teach a child, prepare a meal, or quietly meet a need, God is working through you to display His love. Never underestimate what God can do through someone who

simply offers Him what they've been given. How has God uniquely wired you? What abilities, passions, experiences, or opportunities has He given you? What do people often thank you for? Where have you experienced the greatest joy in serving others?

Every time you Serve, you are taking another intentional step in following Jesus.

Reflection

- What gifts, abilities, or experiences has God given you that you can use to serve others?
- Where is one place God may be inviting you to use those gifts to make a difference?

Prayer

Father, thank You for creating me uniquely and giving me gifts to bless others. Show me where You want me to serve, and give me a willing heart to say yes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 2

Seeing What Others Miss

Scripture: Luke 10:33–37

Jesus describes three men who traveled the same road and encountered the same wounded man. The priest saw him and passed by. The Levite did the same. Both were religious men who might have been expected to help, yet neither stopped. Then Jesus introduces the least likely hero - a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans shared a long history of hostility, making his response especially surprising. Jesus says that when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, "he felt compassion for him." Compassion is the turning point of the story. He didn't simply notice the man's suffering; what he saw moved him to action. He treated his wounds, placed him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for his continued care. Jesus' contrast is powerful. All three men saw the same need, but only one responded with mercy. The Samaritan demonstrates that genuine compassion doesn't simply recognize suffering.

Application

One of the most important ways we follow Jesus is to **Serve** the people around us. God shapes our hearts by teaching us to see people the way He sees them. The Samaritan wasn't moved by obligation or convenience. His compassion noticed someone hurting and moved toward him. Who might God be asking you to notice today? As you follow Jesus, ask Him to cultivate that same compassion in you. The more you experience His compassion, the more His compassion can flow through you.

Every time you Serve, you are taking another intentional step in following Jesus.

Reflection

- Who in your life might you be seeing, but not truly noticing?
- What is one need you could respond to with compassion, even if it requires some inconvenience?

Prayer

Father, give me eyes to notice people around me. Fill my heart with compassion that leads to action. Help me love people well and reflect the kindness of Jesus. Amen.

Day 3

A Life Poured Out

Scripture: John 13:12–17

The disciples entered the upper room for the Passover meal, but Jesus did something unexpected. He stood from the table, wrapped a towel around His waist, poured water into a basin, and began washing His disciples' feet. This task was normally reserved for the lowest servant in the household. Roads were dusty, sandals offered little protection, and washing another person's feet was considered one of the most humble jobs imaginable. Yet this was exactly what Jesus chose to do. The Teacher served His students. The Lord knelt before those who called Him Master. When He finished, Jesus explained the meaning of His actions: "I have given you an example to follow." Jesus wasn't simply demonstrating humility; He was showing His disciples the kind of life that should characterize those who follow Him. In God's kingdom, greatness is expressed through humble service.

Application

One of the most important ways we follow Jesus is to **Serve** the people around us. Jesus never asks us to go where He has not already gone. Before calling His disciples to serve, He first showed them what a servant's heart looks like. Following His example means becoming willing to do what may go unnoticed, receive no recognition, or require personal sacrifice. A life surrendered to Jesus increasingly becomes a life poured out for others.

Every time you Serve, you are taking another intentional step in following Jesus.

Reflection

- Where might Jesus be asking you to serve even when it is inconvenient or unnoticed?
- What is one practical way you can put someone else's needs ahead of your own this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You for the example of Jesus. Give me His humility and a willing heart to serve others with joy. Amen.

Day 4

Faithful in the Small Things

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

Jesus told the parable of the talents to teach His followers about faithful stewardship. While the story speaks broadly about how we use everything God has entrusted to us, it reveals an important principle about serving. When the master returned, he did not praise the servant for achieving extraordinary results. Instead, he commended him because he had been faithful with what he had been given. God measures success differently than we often do. We tend to celebrate visible accomplishments, large platforms, or impressive outcomes. God delights in faithfulness. Much of the work that builds His kingdom happens quietly—in conversations no one else hears, acts of kindness that go unnoticed, and simple obedience that never receives applause.

Application

One of the most important ways we follow Jesus is to **Serve** the people around you. It can be tempting to believe that our contribution is too small to matter, but God's kingdom has always been built through ordinary people who faithfully obey Him. He is not asking you to do everything. He is simply asking you to be faithful with what He has entrusted to you today. As you follow Jesus, remember that He sees every unseen

act of service. He delights in a heart that quietly and consistently serves others for His glory. Faithfulness in the small things often becomes the foundation for greater opportunities in God's perfect timing.

Every time you Serve, you are taking another intentional step in following Jesus.

Reflection

- What has God entrusted to you that you can faithfully use to serve others?
- Where might God be asking you to serve faithfully, even if no one notices?

Prayer

Father, thank You for valuing faithfulness more than recognition. Help me to serve You with a willing heart whether anyone notices or not. Teach me to be faithful with every opportunity You place before me, trusting that You will use it for Your glory. In Jesus' name.

Day 5

Greatness Redefined

Scripture: Mark 10:42–45

After James and John asked for places of honor in His kingdom, Jesus gathered His disciples to redefine what greatness looks like. The rulers of the world measured greatness by authority, status, and power over others. Jesus turned that thinking upside down: “Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.” In God’s kingdom, greatness is not found in climbing higher than others but in lowering ourselves to serve them. Jesus didn’t simply teach this principle - He embodied it. He reminded His disciples that “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” The ultimate example of service was the cross. Jesus willingly gave Himself for others, demonstrating the servant-hearted life He calls His followers to embrace.

Application

One of the most important ways we follow Jesus is to **Serve** the people around us. The world encourages us to seek recognition, but Jesus invites us to pursue a different kind of greatness—one marked by humility, love, and putting others first. As your heart becomes more like His, serving becomes less about duty and more about reflecting the character of Christ. Following Jesus isn’t merely believing what He taught. It’s allowing His life to shape the way you live.

Every time you Serve, you are taking another intentional step in following Jesus.

Reflection

- Where are you most tempted to seek recognition rather than quietly serve others?
- What would choosing Jesus’ definition of greatness look like in your life this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Shape my heart to reflect His humility and love. Help me find joy in serving others and becoming more like Him. Amen.