

I Am Devoted

Lesson 04 of 04 in the series: "Devoted 2021"

"Devoted" = 100% engaged

"Engaged" = involved, busy about completing a task, pledged

A. At Centerpoint, we want everyone to be 100% engaged in bringing people to Jesus.

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **When Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

1. There was nothing amazing about what the paralyzed man's four friends did. They were simply faithful in bringing a friend in need to Jesus.
2. Jesus can do amazing things!
3. We don't want anyone to miss out on the wonderful things Jesus has in store for our church.

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him."

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a (NLT)

B. We can be engaged in bringing people to Jesus by giving.

"Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT)

1. **Initial Giver** - someone who decides to give for the first time
2. **Consistent Giver** - someone who decides to give on a regular basis
3. **Intentional Giver** – someone who budgets a specific amount they want to give to God each month
4. **Surrendered Giver** – someone who tithes (gives 10%)
5. **Extravagant Giver** - someone who gives beyond the tithe

Some thoughts about giving:

"Give as you are able, according as the Lord has blessed you." Deuteronomy 16:17 (TLB)

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.' And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NLT)

Note: We give because God first gave to us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

C. We can be a part of what God is doing in and through our church by serving.

"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift

is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” Romans 12:4-8 (NLT)

1. **Helper** – someone who offers to help one time or at a special event
2. **Ministry Volunteer** – someone who volunteers in a ministry on a regular basis
3. **Servant** – someone who is willing to serve whenever, wherever, however needed
4. **Ministry Leader** – someone who is willing to lead others when asked to do so
5. **Missionary** – someone who is willing to go and serve wherever God calls him/her

Some thoughts about serving:

“Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don’t be impressed with yourself. Don’t compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.” Galatians 6:4-5 (MSG)

Note: We serve because Christ first served us. “...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. What does the word “engaged” mean to you? What would Centerpoint look like if everyone became 100% engaged in giving and serving?
2. Read Mark 2:1-12. Why do you think the paralyzed man’s friends were willing to carry him up on a roof and then damage someone’s home just to get him in front of Jesus? How could this story apply to the people of Centerpoint?
3. Discuss the giving and serving ladders John Schmidt used as illustrations in his message this week.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Is it really possible to give cheerfully?
5. Read Romans 12:4-8. How/where will you serve this next year?
6. What excites you most about our new facility in Prattville? What opportunities might God give us?
7. Spend some time praying as a group.