

# WELCOME HOME WEEK 4 "GIVE"

– PATRICK WALTON / 11.19.2017

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John 13:3-5 | 1st Corinthians 3:10-15

INTRODUCTION—*Serving placed me everywhere*

## DEFINING THE ROLE OF A SERVANT

The word most frequently used in the New Testament for SERVING is the Greek word DIÁKONOS (Dee-ak'-on-os) and it literally means *to kick up dust as one running an errand*—it's an active word.

At IHOPNW one of the primary ways that we serve God is through serving others, both inside the ministry and outside.

**Matthew 25:31-46** *"...Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe you?...And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me...."*

Christ-like service best takes place when we are serving FROM our identity in Christ, and not FOR our identity in Christ.

We call Paul, "Paul the Apostle" but he never refers to himself this way;

*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle*     *Paul, called to be an apostle*     *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ*     *Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ*     *Paul, an apostle of Christ*     **(Rom. 1:1; 1st Cor. 1:1; 2nd Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1)**

The primary reason why Paul is introducing himself this way is because he wants people to see the proper pattern of IDENTITY first and FUNCTION second — Our function is to flow from our identity and not our identity from our function. *If our identity is found in our function, we will lose our identity when we change or lose that function*

Jesus showed us what a life of serving FROM our identity looks like:

**John 13:3-5** *"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 disciple's feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."*

## SERVING GOD WITH OUR TIME

God has special works that He's designed for us and in order walk them out with longevity, we have to live in the tension of work and rest.

**Ephesians 2:10** *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

The majority of us don't get to control WHAT we do for our work, but we get to control HOW we do our work.

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Even though the nature of work is laborsome, we still get to decide what percentage of our work is worship—I think it's right to prioritize our life of work in this order; **(1) God (2) Spouse (3) Family (4) Career (5) Ministry**

## SERVING GOD WITH OUR TREASURES

Jesus was clear that we will either WORSHIP OUR MONEY or we will WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR MONEY

**Matthew 6:24** *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth or property)."*

If we love money, we often end up using people, but if we love people, we will use money to serve God by way of serving others—*Christianity is a pay-it-forward relationship.*

At IHOPNW, we are committed to storing up our treasures in heaven—we can't take our wealth with us, but we can send it on ahead of us.

**Matthew 6:19-21** *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Ministries often sin by either talking too much about money or not enough—We want to be in the middle.

## SERVING GOD WITH OUR TALENTS

Jesus made it clear that upon His resurrection and ascension, the body of Christ would do greater works than Him—This promise is both LITERAL and NUMERICAL (John 14:12)

Our talents are both NATURAL and SPIRITUAL

Natural—*relational skills, communication skills, writing, conversation, teaching, poetry culinary skills*

Spiritual—*miracles, word of knowledge, faith, healing, apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher*

At IHOPNW we want to help you discover and develop the gifts that God's given to you, so that you can better live for God's glory and the good of others.

## THE SERVANT'S EVALUATION

Paul was clear in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:10-15** that every Christian will give an account before the Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema Seat) as to what they did with what they were given. Many will suffer loss on that Day, but it's unnecessary loss—*The Bema Seat is different than the Great White Throne of Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15*

GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES—Deep in the earth      HAY, WOOD, STUBBLE—On the surface

Cultural norms at IHOPNW—*Serving someone else's thing as a means of getting your own, serving with the right motives, what I am apart of is more important than the part I play, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command.*

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