

Refuge Church at Pleasant Hill

March 19th Sunday Morning Service

Serve - Part 2

Tyson Brewster

Why do a series called "Serve".

It is fitting to talk about "Serve" on Mother's day. Moms by in large are the ultimate examples of "Serve". This is the way a mom lives her life. A mom sacrifices for others.

Part of being a follower of Jesus is understanding that life is no longer about ourselves.

God calls us to a higher purpose than just living for ourselves.

Modern Day leadership is about doing whatever it takes to get your desired result that you want.

Biblical leadership is entirely different from that style.

Today we will lay the foundation as to why we serve.

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The foundation for a follower of Jesus and a church to Serve is based on:

1. Jesus Christ came to Serve.

If there ever was a leader who had the all the tools to lead based on power, authority and ability, it was Jesus.

All Knowing

All Powerful

Name above every name

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Philippians 2:3-8 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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Mark 9:33-37 ESV

33 And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" 34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." 36 And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

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Mark 10:29-31 ESV

29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

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Mark 10:35-45 ESV

35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great

among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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I think Jesus is doing 2 things for the apostles.

1. They still do not understand that Jesus came to die. They think He is going to become a military ruler and restore Israel to power and prestige. Jesus is preparing them for His death.

What follows is the triumphal entry - on a donkey. He is heading toward His ultimate act of service.

2. These men were about to be the apostles. These guys were about to be held in very high regard. Even today we hold them in high regard. Jesus was preparing these men for their calling.

Their calling was not to use their status for their benefit but to be a servant.

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Mark 12:28-31 ESV

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

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Serving others should be:

1. An act of obedience

It is part of the mindset of Jesus. - Philippians 2.

2. An act of love.

I want to show you 2 more examples.

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Luke 22:24-27 ESV

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

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John 13:1-17 ESV

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

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Blessed - happy, fulfilled, joyful

We will be happy, fulfilled and joyful if we serve others.

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Mark 10:45 ESV

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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We will find our greatest joy in living a life of service and sacrifice to others for the sake of God's Glory.

In a room full of mothers today there are many examples of joy found in service. A mom's greatest joy comes in being a mom and mom is one who serves.

This is a glimpse of what God has created us for.

Moms serve out of an act of love.

When we truly begin to love others as we should then serving them will become our joy.

It no longer seems like the work of a servant but a work of love.

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John 15:12-15 ESV

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

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Isaiah 53:10 ESV

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

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Isaiah 53:10 NASB

10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

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Jesus had joy in serving us through his sacrifice because it was an act of love.

We will have joy in serving others when it becomes an act of love for the people whom God has placed in our life to serve.

I pray we all find our joy in serving out of love.