

Use What You Have Cultivating -As You Go -Week 5

It all comes back to being a follower of Jesus. He led the way for us by example. Service and humility go hand in hand. Jesus willingly set aside His divine privileges and emptied Himself on our behalf.

Be honest, have you presumed that someone else will fill the needs if you don't? Do you feel that you don't have the time to give because your schedule is too full already? Underlying those assumptions is the belief that your plans are more important than those of others, or that what you are doing takes priority over serving. What if you raised serving to a higher priority and considered rearranging your schedule to make time to serve? What would you have to put down in order to serve?

The motive for serving should not be because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Let's deliberately shift our focus from any negative impacts on us to the blessing we could bring others who we serve. You will still reap the blessing of joy as you are a witness to Jesus and His Kingdom through serving.

WRAP-UP

As we conclude the "As You Go" sermon series, the challenge is clear: it's time to act on what we've learned and live lives of service. While we may have lacked desire, discipline, or direction before, we now understand that God calls us to make disciples, listen to His Spirit, walk in community, and use our imperfect stories for His glory. Each of us has been uniquely gifted and placed in a specific environment—family, school, workplace, or church—where we can serve others and point them to Christ. Jesus modeled a life of selfless service, not for personal gain, but to glorify God and love others. As His followers, we're called to do the same, using our spiritual gifts to serve, relying on God's strength, and prioritizing service not for recognition, but for the joy of blessing others and advancing His Kingdom. Now the question is: are you ready to step into your God-given role and experience the joy of serving?

MEMORY VERSE

6 This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. - 2 Timothy 1:6 NLT

Challenge- Some time this week, complete this Spiritual Gifts Survey. It will give you insight into your gifting. Once you discover the areas that appear to be strongest you can begin to ask God how you can begin to use those gifts in service to others. scan or click the QR code.



INTRODUCTION

As we conclude our sermon series, "As You Go", it is time to put into practice what we have learned. Maybe you haven't had the desire, discipline or direction you needed to go and make disciples. But now you know we are commissioned to make disciples of all nations, to listen to the Spirit's prompting, to go together not alone, and to let God use our imperfect life's story in the redemption of others. Now it is time for us to serve. God has made each of us uniquely. He has given you the personality, gifts, talents and passion that make you who you are. And He has placed you in the family, school, office, neighborhood or church where God can use you to bless those around you. Now are you ready to find the perfectly fitted place for you to fill and experience the joy of serving?

Ice Breaker

Do you remember having a waiter, clerk or barista who gave you exceptional service? What did they do that made them exceptional and what was their attitude like?

Key Passages

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. - 1 Peter 4:10 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Jesus Modeled Service

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Mark 10:45 NLT

Our world tends to be based on transactional relationships. We give something because we expect to receive something in return. But Jesus demonstrated a different model in His life. He came to serve others.

How does Mark identify Jesus? What is your identity in relationship to God? Why is it important to recognize our identity in order to feel secure in our serving? How might serving others affect you if you weren't secure in your identity apart from serving someone else's needs?

*13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- Galatians 5:13-14 NLT
18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. - 1 John 3:18 NLT*

In his letter to the Galatians Paul was addressing the false teaching that they were bound by the law in order to be saved. But we have our freedom and salvation in Christ. So, the law that we follow is to love our neighbor as ourselves. And you can freely demonstrate that love through acts of service.

What are some of the practical ways you might "Love your neighbor as yourself" through an act of service? How could doing so bring God glory?

*40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
- Matthew 25:40 NIV*

When we take time to deeply reflect on Jesus' life as a servant who gave Himself for us, it should move us to live similarly. We owe Him our lives and so we offer them in His service. One way we do that is in serving one another. As Jesus explained in Matthew 25:40, when we serve the least among us, we are serving Jesus.

2. Spiritual Gifts

10 God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. - 1 Peter 4:10 NLT

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. But contrary to what we might think, although these gifts are given to us, their purpose is for serving others. God is allowing us to be His hands and feet in reaching the world. Part of realizing this, is also realizing that we do this in God's strength and the energy God supplies us, not our own. And when we are using our gifts, to serve others, in God's strength, guess who gets the glory? It isn't us.

Would you say you've been accepting, reluctant or unaware of spiritual gifts in a church setting? Share any past experiences you've had, positive or negative, with spiritual gifts.

6 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. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 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 12:6-8 NLT

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. - Ephesians 4:11 NLT

28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. - 1 Corinthians 12:28 NLT

As you read through the passages above make note of the various gifts you find there. This is not an exhaustive list. Are there any gifts listed here that you don't understand or haven't heard of? Are there any that you feel might be your gifting?

If this topic leaves you with more questions than answers, we invite you to drop into The Hub in our lobby after service. Someone will be there to discuss your questions and help you find answers.

3. As You Go... Serve

3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. ... 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. - John 13:3-5, 14 NLT

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. - Philippians 2:5-8 NLT