

Why are we here?
#5 Serving Like Jesus
Matthew 20: 17-28

Introduction: Pastor and author Charles Swindol wrote: “God is committed to one major objective in the lives of all His people: to conform us to “the image of His Son””. On the basis of that, we may well ask, what does “the image of his Son” look like? It may mean a few things, but one thing is for certain, we can be confident in what Christ’s said of Himself and hence, His ministry. He said this in Matthew 20:26-28: *“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Jesus has set the example for us to follow & promised that blessing will flow from what we do in response to His command.

Ice Breaker: Would you prefer to serve someone, or be served by someone? Why?

Questions to consider:

1. Name 3 abilities you have and at 1 spiritual gift that you exercise consistently? Discuss what you think the difference might be between these two.

2. God’s word says that each person is:

- Created to serve God. Eph 2:10
- Saved to serve God. 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 12:1
- Called to serve God. 2 Tim 1:9 (again)
- Commanded to serve God. Matthew 20:28

Which one of those excites you, challenges you, encourages you or scares you... or something else? Why? Knowing this, what is holding you back from serving God? Or what propels you forward to serving Him more?

3. Jesus’ picture of a servant is unmistakably a slave. How do you feel about that? (see Mat 20:27-28)

4. “A Christian who is not a servant, is a contradiction.” (*Rick Warren Purpose Driven Life*). What do you think about this comment? Fair or unfair? Why?

5. The words that characterize Jesus life and character are “to serve” and “to give”. How do you see these two playing out in His life? Are these two phrases that someone could say about you?

6. Ready John 13:1-5; 15-17. What do you think about Jesus’s statement that to really receive blessing, you need to do what He does – serve? What obstacle do you need to have removed in your life in order to embrace and obey Christ’s mandate to serve?

The best way to start serving is not to read a book about it, or attend a course to find out you gifts and passions. These are good in themselves, however, the best way is to find a need and fill that need, no matter how simply it may be. Pray and ask God to show you a person who is in need, and to be more sensitive and aware of opportunities that will come your way to serve.