

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 8 Jan 2023
Sermon Title : Serving = Loving
Speaker : Rev John Foo
Text : Luke 22:27

Introduction

What is different in today's worship service besides having the Ministry's Fair in the sanctuary? The crucial difference is that there is hardly anybody serving – no ushers to greet and welcome you etc. There is a certain number of people needed to run each service and multiply that with the number of services each week, we can imagine the number of volunteers needed.

Today, we have the barest minimum people to serve at this service – a preacher, a person to do the Family News and Offering, and a guitarist as worship leader. If we pull everyone completely out of all the areas in all the ministries we are doing in church, what do we get? Nothing!

What we did today is to have you get a feel of what it is like when there is hardly anybody serving in a worship service. Why do we do this at the beginning of the year? Let us read from Luke 22:27. Of course, we do not have a scripture reader and no power-point slides this morning.

Luke 22:27

Luke 22:27 “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

Because there is hardly anyone serving today, we won't find much of Jesus hanging around today. Jesus is in the habit of sticking around those who serve as we learn from verse 27.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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Jesus did say that the more important person is the one who sits at the table being served rather than the one serving. However, in the House of God, we work differently from the world. There are three things that we need to know:

1. Nobody sits at the table in the House of God, figuratively

- a. It is clear in the Faith community where God has established here, He is calling us to serve rather than be served. God has called a community of believers to live out His kingdom values and be in the business of serving others. The world sees it differently and knows that the paying customer gets to be served and sits at the table while the waiter stands and serves. In the House of God, there is only one who gets VVIP treatment and that is God himself. We are all merely servants of the Almighty.
- b. We know that the Bible tells us that if we want to be great in this Kingdom of God, we've got to be servants of all. If we want to start right this year, we have to get down to the business of serving, perhaps not on Sunday only but also other areas that is found at the booths set up around the sanctuary.
- c. If you are thinking that you only need to come on Sunday, fill up a space, join in the singing, listen to the Word and then march out, then you are merely a consumer of the church and don't really belong here. It doesn't matter whether we are young or old, spiritually mature or immature as we are all called to serve. Jesus doesn't discriminate anybody from serving nor does He give excuse to anybody else not to serve.

2. Serving is the norm in the House of God

- a. If we have to beg and plead with the congregation to serve, then we know that we cease to become the body of Christ. We would become just a religious organisation – some will be serving and others come to be served.

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- b. In the body of Christ, we have an organic body where all parts play their role. If any part doesn't function, then cut it off. If there is a parasite on your body leeching off you, you will get rid of it, not keep it as a pet. Every member of the body needs to be naturally doing its part, playing its role. Question we need to ask ourselves is whether we are a legitimate member of this body of Christ. Christ is the Head of this body, our Saviour and Redeemer. But is He also our Master and our Lord?
- c. Jesus has set the example of serving upon Himself so we who call Him Master and Lord can follow the same. There is no exception to the rule and nobody is excused. Jesus is telling us to stick to the gang that serves because He is there serving with us.
- d. What stops us from serving? It is our attitude toward serving – thinking that serving is a chore, a burden and demeaning as it puts us below others. It is an unnecessary inconvenience which causes us to think twice about serving because we don't get anything out of it. Scriptures talk about being rewarded for our faithfulness in service but this morning, we want to talk about the attitude that we should have – that serving is a norm!

3. Serving shows our love for others

- a. When we serve others, we are conveying to them that we love them, value them and cherish them. We show our love by giving up our rights, our time, our comfort and our resources so that others may benefit and receive what we are giving up. Question for us is which side are we on? The receiving side or giving side?
- b. Jesus has shown us that there will be sacrifices on our part in serving – that is the way of the cross. We may think that it sounds like a one-way deal where we serve and others get to be served.

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But just imagine that if everyone of us serves, who are we serving? We are actually serving everyone! Everyone who serves gets served. There is no division of two groups of people – one sitting at the table to be served and one standing up serving.

- c. It is one big community as an indivisible body where everybody serves one another and when we do so, it doesn't matter whether it's the big things or small things when we start serving. This morning we only have Alfred singing and playing the guitar for us. He looks cool but can you imagine if he's the only doing it every week. Soon, we won't see much of him because he will expend himself completely.
- d. God doesn't just give one half of the community the necessary talents required to serve the community. In fact, God gives each one of us a specific talent that He wants us to use to serve the body of Christ. If we are not serving, then someone has to step in and double up or even quadruple up.

Conclusion

Our challenge is to get the attitude right and the order right to experience the presence of God and Christ in a powerful way because every single act of service will touch, bless, and minister to the person we are serving. We want to believe that God is going to move every single one of us who are not serving to say, "God here I am. Show me where I can serve with the talent that you have given me." Ultimately, we must see serving as an extension of our worship to God.

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As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

Appoint someone to Luke 22:27 twice, slowly.

- 1a. If the one at the table is greater, why did Jesus say that he is among those who serves?
- 1b. Why does no one sit at the table in the House of God?
- 1c. Who qualifies to be a legitimate member in the House of God?
- 1d. How does serving shows our love for others?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation

- 2a Reflect on Luke 22:27 and share areas on how we can experience more of Jesus' presence in our midst.
- 2b. What are we prepared to give up to serve?
- 2c. What are we going to do about what the Holy Spirit is telling us about our service?

C. Testimonies, Action and Prayer

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

- 3. Share your testimony on how you have experience God's grace and love to address your fears in serving.

OR

Give thanks to God for helping you to challenges and difficult conditions and transformation.

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