

Pastor Craig Groeschel shared an experience he had one Sunday after church. A man approached him and said, “Pastor the answer is yes!” “The answer is yes to what?” replied Craig. The man then explained that the answer was “yes” to anything that Craig or the church needed. He explained that Jesus had done such an amazing work in his life and that the church had been such a blessing to him, he was ready and willing to give back in any way that he possible could. “So, Pastor,” he said, “the answer is yes.”

In this series we’ve been talking about Living Like Jesus!

1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Philippians 2:5 (NCV) In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.

As we are learning to Live Like Jesus, one of the characteristics of someone who has truly experienced the life changing touch of Jesus is that they want to give back. Not that we could ever pay Jesus back for what He has done for us, but we now desire to serve His church, His people, and others.

A Touch from Jesus Results in Serving

Luke 4:38-39 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately after her healing, what does she do? She got up at once and began to wait on them. (NKJ “she arose and served them.”)

Today I want to encourage you to “Say Yes” to Living Like Jesus! Say yes to Living Like Jesus, by saying yes to serving! It all seems to work together, just as you desire to give back and return to others after your salvation, serving is also one of the greatest ways that you can continue to be more and more like Jesus!

Yes! More Like Servant Jesus

Jesus also told His disciples to look to Him as their ultimate example of serving.

Matthew 20:28 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." If Jesus, wasn’t above serving others, certainly we’re not above serving others either.

As Jesus walked the earth, He referred to himself as a servant and His followers continued to refer to Him that way.

Peter’s Sermon: **Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified *his servant Jesus*...**

Acts 3:26 When God raised up *his servant*, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

The Believer’s Prayer: **Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against *your holy servant Jesus*, whom you anointed.**

The Early Church Called Themselves Servants

The Believer’s Prayer: **Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable *your servants* to speak your word with great boldness.**

Paul refers to himself as a servant of Jesus: **Romans 1:1 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus*, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God.**

Ephesians 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Fellow Servants of Christ Jesus: **Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:**

- Paul makes no distinction whatsoever between himself, a veteran missionary and Apostle, and Timothy, a novice just beginning to preach. Paul refers to both of them as “servants.”
- Paul simply refers to himself and Timothy as **servants of Christ Jesus**. The highest honor of the greatest apostle was to be called a servant.

The highest honor and privilege of any believer is to be a true servant of Christ Jesus.

Would the word servant be associated with you and your name, or would the idea of you being a servant to others cause people to smirk?

Next Step: Ask yourself, “On a scale of 1-10, How well am I serving others?”

You Feed Them

Matthew 14:13-21 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

16 Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

17 “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

18 “Bring them here to me,” he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

Last week we read this text when we were talking about “Group Like Jesus.” Jesus divided people into small groups in a comfortable setting so that they could be fed.

Jesus blessed and multiplied the five loaves and two fish, but He didn’t feed the people, His disciples did. **Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.**

20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Back to verse 16. **Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”**

Why would Jesus say, you feed them or **“You give them something to eat”**? Was Jesus being lazy? Was Jesus trying to push His work off on others? Of course not!

Jesus wanted to use this opportunity as a teachable moment. When Jesus told His disciples to feed them, they were fully aware that this was not something they could do on their own. They needed the enabling power of God; they needed God’s grace to do what He was asking them to do.

- **Jesus wanted his disciples to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from servicing others.** This was also part of their process of learning to Live Like Jesus. These were guys who would argue about who was the greatest and were constantly jockeying for position.
- **Jesus wanted them to understand the greatest places in the Kingdom of God are the positions of servitude.**

Matthew 20:26-28 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 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 wanted to give them the key to a blessed life.**

Jesus wanted to give them a lesson that he would demonstrate for them later when He washed their feet and told them that serving others was the key to a blessed life!

John 13:12-17 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

ILL: I have had a lot of people say things to me over the years that were hurtful. But one of the greatest insults ever given to me was a statement made to me by a former Pastor. This former Pastor started coming to Believers and told me that God had sent him here to help me.

Over the course of time, it turns out that he really wasn’t doing the task that he willingly volunteered to do, and he wasn’t even really participating in the life of the church. That led to a necessary talk with him. During the conversation, he told me what he would do and wouldn’t do and then he said the hurtful thing. *He said, “Don’t expect me to be one of your worker bees.”*

You are probably saying, “That’s it? That’s what he said that bothered you?” Yes, because he assumed that I saw the members of Believers Church as nothing more than *worker bees*, that I use to make them do what I want them to do. There is nothing further from the truth!

I don’t want you to be my worker bee! I’m not asking you to do things for me because I’m lazy and bossy. I’m following the example of Jesus and saying, **“You feed them”**, so that you can experience the joy of serving others, live the blessed life, and continue to Live Like Jesus!

And as a former Pastor, he of all people, should know the importance of leading people into this wonderful, continuing journey of becoming like Jesus, through serving.

You serve, but not for me. You serve for Jesus, and you serve for your own spiritual growth.



ILL: Bill Godwin – Billy took a special interest in me, and he began to spend time with me to encourage me in the ways of God. Not only did Billy encourage me in the ways of the Lord, but he also began to teach me how to love and serve other people.

One Saturday morning I was dressed and ready for a day at the beach! I had worked all week long and was really looking forward to going. Before I could get out the door, the phone rang. It was Billy. He said, “Scott what are you doing today?” “I’m going to the beach, why do you ask?” I answered. Billy replied, “Well I just felt like the Lord wanted me to go to the nursing home today and just love on those people in there.” The nursing home? To love on old people at that? No way I wanted to go the nursing home!

Well, this was my first experience with “Godwin” persuasion and the next thing I knew I was dressed and on my way to the nursing home, just to love on people. That was a life changing day for me. I left there more exhilarated than I had ever been before. I experienced the joy that comes from loving and ministering to the needs of others. I felt the excitement of being used by God to do something that was beyond my own ability. This was the beginning of my ministry journey.

Billy spent more time with me and sometimes he would take me with him on ministry trips to surrounding towns. Billy would preach and then let me come up to the altar with him and watch and learn, as he prayed for and ministered to the people. I began to feel what Jesus must have felt as he served others. I began to understand, that this is what Jesus would do.

Serving others changed my life and it will change your life too!

BUT “YES” must be the answer. You must say “Yes I want to serve like Jesus!

Next Step: Today I “SAY YES” to whatever Jesus wants me to do or my church needs me to do. I will sign up today to 1st Serve on the following ministries.

Next Step: Today I will “Say Yes” and sign up for Next Step Teams Class. Wednesday, 01-27-24, 6:30 – 7:30. Prior to the Class I will take the Spiritual Gift Survey. @ <https://giftstest.com/>