

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

### Jesus Came to Seek and Save the Lost

**Luke 19:1-10** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

**Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

If Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and we want to be like Jesus and care about what Jesus cares about, then we will seek the lost, so that they might be saved too.

### Three Parables / Same Point (Luke 15)

**The Lost Sheep** Luke 15:3-7 **The Lost Coin** Luke 15:8-10 **The Lost Son** Luke 15:11-32

Common Threads in All Three Parables

1. Something of great value was lost. Jesus’ Point – “Lost people matter to God.”
2. The lost item was so valuable that it warranted an all-out search.
3. “There was great rejoicing when the lost item was found.” Romans 5:8

### How Do We Seek at Believers

**Relational Evangelism** is reaching those in YOUR sphere of influence. It is investing in someone’s life and inviting them to church or a Christian event. It is evangelism and discipleship by building relationships with people. We will talk more about this in a few weeks.

**Servant Evangelism** is sharing the love and message of Jesus Christ through intentional acts of service and kindness. It is a straightforward approach to sharing God’s love in simple, practical ways.

- A simple act of kindness opens an unbeliever up to the greatest act of kindness of all: *The Gospel*.

### We Seek as We Serve Our Community

In week three of Live Like Jesus (01-21-24) we saw that Jesus 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. It was an honor among his followers to be called servants of Jesus and others.

### Jesus’ Method of Seeking: See A Need; Meet A Need

Look around you and see the needs of the people around you. Follow Jesus’ example and **minister like Jesus did**. How did Jesus minister? It was simple. **He saw a need and He met that need**. As the Father led Him, Jesus spoke life, healing, and deliverance.

Sure, Jesus didn’t meet every need He saw. At the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-8), essentially a hospital-type setting where people came to be healed, Jesus only healed one. So, to be more

technically correct, we should say that Jesus saw needs, He listened to the Father concerning those needs, and, through the power of the Spirit, He met those needs.

- **This March We Will Serve the Boro by Meeting Identified Needs**

We opened up our physical eyes and the eyes of our hearts to the needs all around us. Now we will attempt to meet some of those needs.

**James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.**

- **Where Did Jesus Seek to Serve Others?** Let's look at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke 4, 5, & 6 and see where Jesus did His seeking and serving.

- In His hometown in the synagogue, Lk.4:16 (that almost got Him killed, Lk.4:29).
- Other cities such as Capernaum in the synagogue, Lk.4:31.
- Simon's house, Lk.4:38.
- In a deserted place, Lk.4:42.
- In other synagogues in Galilee, Lk.4:44.
- Standing on a lake shore, Lk.5:1.
- In the city streets, Lk.5:12; in a house, Lk.5:17.
- At a tax office, Lk.5:27; in a tax collector's house, Lk.5:29.
- In a grain field, Lk.6:1; on a mountain top and at the bottom on a level place, Lk.6:12&17.
- Other places where Jesus ministered were near the gate of the city, in a Pharisee's house, in a boat, at the bay, on a beach, in a valley, at a wedding, standing by a well, in a garden, in many houses, cities, and villages.
- He ministered before Pontius Pilate and Herod, He ministered on the cross, and He ministered after His return from the dead.

- **Even Now, Christ Jesus is Still Ministering to and Serving Us.**

**"... Christ Jesus who died —more than that, who was raised to life —is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." Romans 8:34**

**"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." Hebrews 7:25**

The message is clear; following Jesus' example, there is no place we can't serve others!

- **We Are Called to Seek and Serve Everywhere We Go**

When Jesus sent the twelve disciples out, they went and ministered EVERYWHERE!

**"...they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere." Luke 9:6**

**Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs.**

**Look for Opportunities to Do Good**

**Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.** As we have the opportunity!

Every Opportunity we get, let's serve and do good to all people.

***"Do all you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can." John Wesley***

Serve the Boro will give us many opportunities to do good to others!

## **Jesus Taught that Service to Others Can be Equated to Service to God**

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus declares that when the Son of Man comes in his glory, he will gather all the nations to himself and separate them as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. What surprises everyone is that the deeds, good or bad, their service to others, good or bad, are directly equated to their service to God. **Matthew 25:37-40** “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

## **Our Faith Is Expressed in Our Actions**

**James 2:14-17** What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

- We can't tell the world that Jesus loves them, and that God has a wonderful plan for their life and then look the other way when we see their needs. True faith requires action!

## **Seek and Serve Like Jesus**

Paul tells us to start thinking like Jesus when it comes to serving others. Have the same mind or attitude about ministry that Jesus did. **Philippians 2:5-8** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset (attitude) as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

*“We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.” Douglas M. Lawson*

## **Be a Clean and Willing Vessel for The Holy Spirit to Flow Through**

“But the Lord said to him (Ananias), “Go, for he (Saul) is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.” Acts 9:15 (NKJV)

Just think about it. There is a God who loves people so much that He gave His only Son for them. He desires to pour out His love and Spirit upon these people. He just needs a way to carry this good news to them. He just needs a vessel to let His Holy Spirit flow through. The people have the need, Jesus has the answer, and you can be the vessel if you are willing to be used.

- **One catch! You must be a clean vessel.** **2 Timothy 2:20-21** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. **21** Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (NKJV)

Now, I've seen God use vessels of wood and clay. Yes, I've even seen God use a vessel of dishonor. Sometimes, He has to in order to accomplish His plan. Let's face it, sometimes the church doesn't give God a lot to work with. But God prefers to use vessels of gold and silver, vessels of honor. Paul encourages us to cleanse ourselves so that we can be vessels of honor.

- **How do you cleanse yourself?** **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- After we are forgiven and clean, Paul gives us some advice for staying clean. **2 Timothy 2:22**  
**Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.** (Also see 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6)
- Why is it so important to stay clean? So that, as a vessel of honor, you will be **“...useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21**

### **Seek the Lost with Serve the Boro 2024**

Each year we serve our community during our Serve the Boro campaign. There are lots of chances to join in throughout the year as we serve our community besides our big community pre- Easter Events. Beginning this Saturday and going until Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we are going to serve Statesboro with various acts of kindness.

#### **Next Step: I will Serve the Boro at the following events:**

- This Saturday, 03-02, Bread Give Away, Water and Soda Give Away, Laundromat Paying.
- Saturday, 03-09, Free Market (Donate good household items / Help Setup / Help Serve / Help Clean Up)
- Saturday, 03-16, 100% Free Car Wash – No Donations! The more the merrier. (Give out free tickets too!)
- Saturday, 03-23, Gas Buy Down as we share info about Palm Sunday and Easter.

**“The Wonderous Cross”** – A musical and dramatic presentation of the wonderful work that Christ Jesus accomplished for us on the cross will be on Palm Sunday 3-24-24 and Good Friday 3-29-24. But even after Easter on March 31st, the fun continues all year with events like “Art in the Park” and Summer Book Bag Sunday where we give away over three hundred book bags packed with supplies to school children as well as the Gospel message and an opportunity to receive Jesus as savior.

- In October we reach out to our community in the Fair Parade and with a booth at the Fair.
- Family Fun Day in October, the Free Christmas Store, and free gift wrapping at the mall in December.

There are two ways to help:

- 1) Sign up to Serve the Boro at one of our projects and experience firsthand the joy of serving others!
- 2) Be a vital part of all Serve the Boro events by participating in our “Serve the Boro Easter Offering 2024”. March 24<sup>th</sup>. Goal: \$15,000 above our regular tithes.