



Serving and Sacrificing

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Matthew 20:25-28

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

- Mother Theresa

The Least Will Be Greatest

The kingdom of God is an upside down kingdom. The first are last, the last are first. The greatest in the kingdom of God are the lowest - those who give their lives away in sacrifice and service to others.

Jesus is not simply talking about action, he's talking about identity.

That those who are great in the Kingdom of God are not those who simply do serving acts, but those who take the very identity and posture of a servant. Those who wake up in the morning - and their bent towards everything facing them that day echoes the heart of Jesus - I am here not to be served, but to serve.

And the good news for us, is that there's joy on the other side of the sacrifice. There's God-given joy on the other side of the suffering. It's going to be worth it. Maybe not here, maybe not now, maybe not this side of eternity - but one day we'll stand before Jesus and we'll see His radiant face - the one who gave his life in sacrificial service for us - and it will all be worth it.

SERVING AND SACRIFICING AUDIT

Take 20-30 minutes to get alone with God ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you inadequacies, sin, and struggle within your heart as you work through these four questions:

1. Are you willing to serve “that person”?

Who is the person (or people) in your life that are hardest for you to sacrificially serve?
Are there certain people who you are unwilling to become the “least” for and serve?
Why do you think that is and how do you need to repent in light of that?

2. How much are you willing to suffer?

What are the ways you’ve pulled back from or resisted serving when it was too uncomfortable?
Are there certain sacrifices you are unwilling to make to love God and love others?
Are there any false loves or idols that are keeping you from fully sacrificing as you should?

3. Are you serving from love or for love?

When you serve, do you find your thoughts more about yourself or about the person you are serving?
How do you respond when you serve someone else and they do not recognize it or express appreciation?
Do you find yourself serving out of a need for validation, approval, or welcome?

4. Is Jesus worth it?

In what ways are you growing weary from serving or sacrificing?
Are there any particular ways you are most tempted to quit or throw in the towel on serving?
How do you need to pause right now and ask for joy and endurance from God?

After working through this audit, it is time to figure out the “next right thing”. Sometimes, when it comes to serving, we can let our inability to do everything keep us from doing something.

Take 15-20 minutes to brainstorm - what are the next right acts of sacrificial service I can do this week in various areas of my life. Consider:

- Home
- Family
- Workplace
- Neighborhood
- Friends
- Community Group
- Church

RESOURCES

The following are recommended resources if you would like to journey further into this practice:

- **Serving Without Sinking** by John Hindley