

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 20:25-28.** From Bill Baggett (GA, Dec. 2008; p. 30-32).  
*But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. [26] “It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, [27] and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; [28] just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*
- B. The world says, “Be served. Demand service. The greater are served by the lesser” (see Mt. 20:25).
- C. Jesus emphasized the politics of the Gentiles, and little has changed in 2,000 years.

## II. THE WAY THE WORLD SERVES.

- A. Jesus wants us to serve differently than the world lives (Mt. 23:3).  
*therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.*
  1. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders.
  2. They dress distinctively to draw attention to themselves.
  3. They love the best places at the feasts and the best seats at the synagogue.
  4. They love to be greeted with titles of deference.
  5. They make special rules to give themselves advantage in business and legal affairs.
  6. As leaders, they always take care of themselves, putting their needs ahead of others.
- B. Samuel told Israel the consequences of having a human king (see 1Sam. 8:9):
  1. He will take your sons and appoint them for his chariots and horsemen.
  2. He will put some in his army and some in his fields.
  3. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.
  4. He will take the best of your fields, vineyards and olive groves and “give them to his servants.”
  5. He will take a 10th of everything in taxes.
  6. You will moan because of your king.
- C. This is the way the world works. It is the way the world has always worked. But it is not the way God’s kingdom works.

## III. A DIFFERENT KIND OF SERVANT.

- A. See Mt. 20:26-28.
- B. Life in the kingdom (the church) is to be vastly different. Different values, priorities, rules, goals, and outcomes (Rom. 5:6-8; Phil. 2:5-8).  
*(Rom 5:6-8) For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. [8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*  
*(Phil 2:5-8) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
- C. The world says, “Let the big dog eat. Demand deference, Take what you can get. Make them give you what you deserve.”
- D. But Jesus says, “Serve the suffering. Be good to people. Don’t seek status and standing. It’s not about you.”
- E. So the choice is up to you. Can you really be sure that the up is by going down? And if I do that who will take care of me? The answers are “Yes” and “God.”

## IV. TEN MOTIVATIONS TO SERVE.

- A. On a practical level how to we implement a serving mentality?

- B. I understand that service is Biblically correct, but give me motivation!
- C. One, the **behavioral** motivation.
  - 1. "Serve. Just do it."
  - 2. See the opportunity to serve and step up.
  - 3. It is the right thing to do (Prov. 20:11).
 

*It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself If his conduct is pure and right.*
- D. Two, the **self-discipline** motivation.
  - 1. "Make yourself do it. Make yourself serve."
  - 2. Practice this fruit of the spirit until you master it (Gal. 5:22,23).
 

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
  - 3. We must learn to be in control of our spirit (Prov. 25:28).
 

*Like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.*
  - 4. With God's help choose to do what you know to be right.
- E. Three, the **cost-benefit** motivation.
  - 1. "Serve because it pays, it blesses."
  - 2. The reward has been promised to servants (Col. 3:23,24).
 

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*
  - 3. Our labor (serving) in the Lord is never in vain (1Cor. 15:58).
 

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*
- F. Four, the **character development** motivation.
  - 1. "Serve because it's what a good person does."
  - 2. Our actions shape our character.
  - 3. And our character should be that of Jesus (Mt. 10:25).
 

*"It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!"*
- G. Five, the **positive-influence** motivation.
  - 1. "Serve because serving brings out the best in others."
  - 2. A life of service stirs others to love and good works too!
  - 3. It is possible to have a life of service and have joy too (Heb. 10:24).
 

*and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,*
  - 4. Serving refreshes the attitude (1Cor. 16:15-18; 2Cor. 8:1-5).
 

**(1Cor 16:15-18)** Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), [16] that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. [17] And I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus; because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. [18] For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.  
**(2Cor 8:1-5)** Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, [2] that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. [3] For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord, [4] begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, [5] and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.
- H. Six, the **negative-influence** motivation.
  - 1. "Serve because you will look selfish if you don't."
  - 2. Others will be right and know you are selfish if they don't see any service (Phil. 2:3).
 

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;*
  - 3. Love does not behave rudely (1Cor. 13:4,5).
 

*Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, [5] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,*

- I. Seven, the **guilt-prevention** motivation.
  - 1. “Serve so you won’t feel and suffer the guilt of having failed to serve.”
  - 2. It is sin to not do the right thing (Jas. 4:17).
 

Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.
- J. Eight, the **counter-culture** motivation.
  - 1. “I serve because I will not let this world shape my mind or my actions. I refuse to follow the majority mindlessly. I choose a different path, a higher way.”
  - 2. No longer the mold of the world (Rom. 12:2).
 

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- K. Nine, the **identity** motivation.
  - 1. “I serve because I am a servant of God.”
  - 2. A new creation (2Cor. 5:17).
 

Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- L. Ten, the **ownership** motivation.
  - 1. “I serve because of whose I am.”
  - 2. I belong to Jesus -- body, soul, heart, mind, intent, and performance.
  - 3. I live by faith (Gal. 2:20).
 

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.
  - 4. The attitude of a servant (see Mt. 20:26-28).

## V. JESUS, THE MODEL SERVANT.

- A. JC served us at the very highest level (Rom. 5:6-11; Phil. 2:5-11).
 

**(Rom 5:6-11)** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. [8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. [10] For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. [11] And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**(Phil 2:5-11)** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- B. He has served us so that we can know the blessings of serving others in the name of God (Jn. 13:12-17).
 

And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? [13] “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for *so I am*. [14] “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. [15] “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. [16] “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. [17] “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
- C. His selfless, complete service both obligates and enables us to treat others as the Lord treated us.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We must find the motivation to serve. And then translate that motivation to life-changing action.
- B. Serving is a test of faith. Serving is evidence of faith. It is the God-ordained path for growing in faith.
- C. “*If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them*” (Jn. 13:17).
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.