

Living Lent | Day 13

Service or Serve Us?

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised."

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:17–28 RSV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

When you think of Chick-fil-A what pops into your mind? EAT MOR CHIKN commercials, waffle fries, nuggets, milkshakes, the best chicken sandwich ever (sorry Popeyes), or closed on Sunday. One thing that surely pops into the mind is the cordial Chick-fil-A employee response to "Thank you" with the words "My Pleasure."

The story goes that Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy was visiting a Ritz-Carlton hotel when an employee caught his attention. The employee responded with “my pleasure” every time Mr. Cathy thanked the employee. This cordial and pleasant exchange left an impression on Truett who felt that it was a nice way to tell someone that you were pleased to serve them. Today in every Chick-fil-A you will hear the iconic phrase, “my pleasure,” which communicates the greater purpose of Chick-fil-A: to serve one another.

Service is a hard concept to understand because so much the world offers is all about personal gain. The world offers its view of greatness and how to obtain a certain status. It’s exciting. It’s intoxicating. But it never satisfies. The world offers SERVE US rather than teaching us to serve.

In Matthew 20:17-28, Jesus shared the secret to greatness: “the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.”

The word ‘serve’ comes from the Greek word ‘diakaneo’ which means “to minister by way of rendering service in any form or to take care of by rendering humble service.” A great picture of the meaning of ‘diakaneo’ is depicted by Peter’s mother-in-law who was healed by Jesus “and she immediately got up and waited (diakaneo) on them” (Luke 4:39).

John Calvin said that “The highest honor in the church is not government but service.”

Vance Havner said, “There are no trivial assignments in the work of the Lord.”
How’s your service?

The next time you go to Chick-fil-A, and you hear the words “My Pleasure” may it cause you to remember that the Messiah taught us the secret of greatness:
SERVICE not SERVE US!

Who is one person you can serve today?

How can you serve them?

When they say “Thank You” will you respond with “My Pleasure?”

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Dr. Chris Winford has been the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Brunswick since August of 2014 and unashamedly believes that God has called him, equipped him, and disciplined him for the sole purpose of shepherding His flock as He seeks to make His name known to all generations. The First Baptist Church of Brunswick, located on Union Street in downtown Brunswick, is a multi-generational church that seeks to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be: making disciples who make disciples. The support provided through their financial contributions to Morningstar are appreciated, but the time that the youth spend playing basketball with the Children of Morningstar is awesome-being a neighbor in all ways possible.

*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children, our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children’s Home.*

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