

# DEVOTED TOGETHER

## *Serve*

2-8-15

- The book of Acts tells us the story of the first century church. It didn't begin as an institution. It began as a movement.

**ekklesia** (Church) actually means: an assembly or gathering.

1. A **SIMPLE** MESSAGE. 2. AN **EXPANDING** MISSION. 3. A **SERIOUS** DEVOTION.

- **Devoted means:** To be earnest towards, to persevere, be constantly diligent, or to attend tirelessly all the exercises.

**Acts 2:42-47** They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> **Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.** <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together **with glad and sincere hearts,** <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's **workmanship, created** in Christ Jesus to **do good works,** which **God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

**1 Peter 4:10** Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others,** faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

**Main Idea: WE SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS. WE CALL THAT "MINISTRY."**

**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."

- **LESSONS FROM JESUS:**

1. Jesus stated that one of the reasons for His \_\_\_\_\_ was to serve.

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man **did not** come to be **served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2. Jesus stated that significance and meaning in life are \_\_\_\_\_ to serving.

**Mark 9:33-35** They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the **greatest**. 35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be **first**, he must be the very last, and the **servant of all**."

**FOLLOW MEANS: THE SAME WAY WITH.**

**John 12:26** Whoever serves me must **follow me**; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

- **WHAT STOPS US FROM SERVING LIKE JESUS?**

**Mark 9:30-34** They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, 31 **because he was teaching his disciples**. He said to them, "**The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him**, and after three days he will rise." 32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "**What were you arguing about on the road?**" 34 **But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.**

1. Being \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mark 9:35** Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

2. Being \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 20:30-32** Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" 31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" 32 Jesus **stopped** and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

**John 14:15** "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

**Prayer:** Lord I want to put you **FIRST** and make myself **AVAILABLE**.

- Look for opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Look for short terms opportunities.
- Look for long terms opportunities.
- Look for **ASAP** opportunities.

**Matthew 10:42** And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

**Challenge:**

***Evaluate: Does my lifestyle reveal that I serve from obedience?  
Get Plugged in card.***

**Mark 8:35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.