

## KEY QUESTION: *What are the characteristics of a servant?*

❖ \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:30)

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

❖ \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:1-5).

The NT has over 50 ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ ’ statements!

**JOHN 13:3-17:** “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; (v.4) so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. (v.5) After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (v.6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” (v.7) Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”(v.8) “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” (v.9) “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” (v.10) Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” (v.11) For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. (v.12) When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. (v.13) “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. (v.14) Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. (v.15) I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (v.16) I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (v.17) Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

## 3. Serving \_\_\_\_\_ up the Church Family.

**EPHESIANS 4:11-13:** “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, (v.12) to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (v.13) until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7:** “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (v.5) There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (v.6) There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in

all men. (v.7) Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

## 4. Serving is good \_\_\_\_\_ of all God has given you.

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2:** “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. (v.2) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

**KEY QUESTION:** What has God given to each of us that He wants us to faithfully manage?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 25:14-30)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 1:3-5).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:10).

**MATTHEW 25:14-30:** “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. (v.15) To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. (v.16) The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. (v.17) So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. (v.18) But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. (v.19) “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. (v.20) The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’ (v.21) “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ (v.22) “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ (v.23) “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ (v.24) “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. (v.25) So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ (v.26) “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? (v.27) Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. (v.28) “ ‘Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. (v.29) For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an

abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (v.30) And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## FINAL THOUGHTS

**Why Should I Serve?**  
*The better question is...*

Why am I \_\_\_\_\_ serving?

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Prayer:** Take time to pray for the missions team staying at SMC this week and for all our Easter events (i.e., Easter Egg Hunt, Good Friday Services, and Easter Sunday).

1). Read Ephesians 2:1-10. In (v.10) we are called 'God's Workmanship'. How are we 'God's Workmanship' according to this entire passage?

2). *What* comes to your mind when you think of a servant? Does this picture resemble the way Jesus characterized servants? (See Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:3-17).

3). *Who* comes to your mind when you think of someone who is an example of 'servanthood'?

4). A servant is described in point #2 as a person who is 'others-centered' rather than self-centered. An others-centered person is one who strives to live out the 'One Another' commands of Scripture. Take time to look up the following 'One Another' commands and talk about what they look like at SMC and in YOUR life? (John 13:13-15; 1 Thess.5:10-12; Rom.16:15-17; 12:15-17; 12:7-9; Jam.5:14-16; Rom.15:6-8; 14:12-14; 1 Cor.1:9-11; Gal.5:12-14; Eph.4:1-3, 31-33; 5:18-22).

5). What has God given to you that you can use in ministry @ SMC? If you are not already using your talents, skills etc., then what steps can you take to begin using them for His glory?

**Prayer:** Take time to pray for each other.

**Today's Message:**  
"Why Does God Want Us to Serve?"  
Pastor Cory Anderson / 04.05.09 / SMC

## Introduction:

### 1. Serving is part of God's \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for your life.

**EPHESIANS 2:8-10:** "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (v.9) not by works, so that no one can boast. (v.10) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

#### **Concerning the word 'workmanship'...**

"It's from the Greek word *poiema*, which literally means "work of art," and is the root of our English word *poem*. You are a work of God – and nothing but the highest and best comes from his hand. Like the artist who takes scrap metal and turns it into an amazing sculpture, God takes our lives and fashions them into a masterpiece. You are not only a masterpiece shaped by God's own loving hands, but you are a unique work of divine art. Like an original painting or sculpture, you are a one of a kind." **Erik Rees, S.H.A.P.E: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose For Life", p.19.**

### 2. Serving makes you like the \_\_\_\_\_.

**MATTHEW 20:20-28:** "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. (v.21) "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." (v.22) "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. (v.23) Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." (v.24) When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. (v.25) Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. (v.26) Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, (v.27) and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—(v.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."