



DAYS OF PRAYER & FASTING

21

DAY 1

The Importance of Prayer

Ps. 84, 1 Timothy 2:8

What is Prayer? It is simply talking to God in order to grow in our relationship with Jesus. E.M. Bounds, who is well studied in prayer, said, "Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed."

How important is Prayer? It is God's will that we pray. Jesus Christ "spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" At first we might think of prayer as mainly "communicating with God." That's a good start, but there's much more to it. At its core, prayer involves an ever-deepening relationship with God. Prayer cultivates a deep desire for God, the kind of longing for God that Psalm 84 expresses so well. Through prayer we are able to actually experience His presence. In the Old Testament, God's presence was most evident at the temple—the "courts of the Lord" poetically described in Psalm 84. The temple was God's "dwelling place," the destination of all who traveled on pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Notice that the psalmist describes people whose "hearts are set on pilgrimage." This passage reveals the essence of prayer and the way we as New Testament believers experience the presence of God in our lives. Because Jesus has paid the price for our sin and opened the way for us into God's presence, God is now present with his people through his Holy Spirit living in us. As a result, every Christian is now a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). So we can experience God's presence through prayer anywhere and at any time. God has come to us. He is as close as our own hearts. To meet with God and grow closer to him, all we need to do is approach him in prayer.

Prayer:

- *Thank you, Lord, for the incredible gift of prayer. Make our hearts your dwelling place, filling us with your presence and guiding us always.*
- *Help me make PRAYER A PRIORITY in my life and family.*



// **Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor**

DAY 2

When Do I Pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

As followers of Christ, one of the necessary spiritual disciplines we are to establish and develop is our communication with the Lord - in other words, our prayer life. Most Christians settle on a particular time of the day when we intentionally spend our meaningful time with God. This devotion and prayer time is valuable and no doubt impacts our relationship with God in a positive and powerful way. However, this is not the only time during the course of a day when we should interact with God.

In writing to the Thessalonians in his first letter, the Apostle Paul wanted to encourage and reassure Christians there to continue working for the Lord while waiting for His return. This same encouragement and reassurance is just as applicable for us today as it was for the Thessalonians! Chapter five is a wonderful reminder of how we as believers should carry on and function in our world today. And right in the midst of that chapter, we are instructed to “pray constantly” (Christian Standard Bible).

As we go through our daily living, let’s make it a point to remain in a mindset of prayer all throughout the day! Be aware that God is always with us and He desires to interact with us all during our day. Keep in mind that prayer is not just us talking to God, but also includes us listening to what God may be saying.

Prayer:

· Lord, allow me to constantly be in a mindset of prayer all throughout the day.

· Let my prayer time not only be me speaking, but also me listening.



// Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor

DAY 3

Why Fast?

Galatians 5:16-17

Fasting is seen throughout scripture often in conjunction with prayer. Whether you've done a lot of fasting or this is the first time you've heard about fasting, my hope is that we can be reminded **why** we fast.

As Christians, our prayer should constantly be "God, make me more like you". The problem is, our flesh is always at odds with what God wants (Matthew 26:41). But if we're serious about following Jesus with all that we have, denying our flesh is a must.

Cornelius Platinga, an American theologian said this about fasting, "The early Christians believed that a person's appetites are linked; full stomachs and jaded palates take the edge from our hunger and thirst for righteousness. They spoil the appetite for God."

The biblical definition of fasting is that it's a christian's voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual reasons. In the bible, fasting was always done with food, but maybe for health reasons you're not able to fast food. That's ok - maybe there are other things such as social media or netflix that take up your time and attention that you can fast.

Throughout the Bible we see that **what we do in the physical gets the attention of heaven**. Through sacrifice and obedience, we can see God dispatch armies of angels and do great things in our lives. Fasting is not a diet, it's not a ritual, and it shouldn't be a duty. Fasting is linking something physical to our spiritual hunger and seeking God with passion. I promise that if you approach fasting with the right heart and earnestly seek God, He will accomplish something great in your life and in the need(s) you're praying for.

Prayer:

• God, I'm sacrificing my comfort and my time to fervently seek You. Show me how to become more like You and make me your vessel.



// Josh Lynch - Worship & Creative Pastor

DAY 4

The Impact of Prayer

1 Samuel 1:2, Mark 11:23

The word impact simply means, to have a strong effect on someone or something. Impact is influence. Jesus said in Mark 11:23 if you say to a mountain “Go throw yourself in the sea” and did not doubt in your heart, it would be done! Wow, now that’s impact.

Moving a mountain into the sea would seem impossible. But Jesus used that image to say God can do anything. God will answer our prayers but not as a result of our positive mental attitude.

God answers prayer according to faith and in His perfect timing. Let’s take a look at Hannah. God had closed her womb and she was barren. Of course this was a very difficult burden for her to carry. Her one desire above all else was to have a child. God would answer her prayer through her son, Samuel who would impact the whole Nation of Israel not just her empty womb! Let’s look at the 5 ways Hannah’s FAITH impacted her prayer:

1. Hannah went straight to God and PRAYED first! She knew where to take her problems! (1Sam 1:10)
2. Hannah TRUSTED God’s power and ability to work on her behalf. (1 Sam 1:11)
3. She BELIEVED God would do what He said . (1Sam 1:18-20)
4. Hannah was FAITHFUL and upheld her end of the prayer. (1 Sam 1:24-28).
5. She PRAISED God for the way He had worked. (1 Sam 2:1-2)

No matter what you’re facing today HOPE in Him. He will never fail.

Prayer:

- *Thank you God, that through your Son Jesus I can come to you in boldness and Faith and make my request known to you.*
- *Help me Lord to always pray according to your will with your purpose in mind.*



// **Ginger Boyette - Children's Pastor**

DAY 5

Where is Prayer in Your Life?

Mark 1:35-38

Jesus Christ gave us a prime example of how we should pray. Mark 1:35-38 shows us that He would wake up every morning, and he started praying and preparing. How many of us can say that this is the first thing we do? Jesus knew how important it is to enter in the presence of the Father early to accomplish what he had to do; that was his priority. Is your relationship with God so vital that you give Him importance and the first place in your day? Maybe your response is "I have to tend to my children and my work. I don't have time." The question is not about your responsibilities, but whether God has priority in your life.

If the Lord is the most important in your life, start your day with Him. Then, the cornerstone of your day changes because you're focused on glorifying God. Through Jesus Christ, we learn that the key to making things happen that will build the Kingdom of God in our life is to begin the day with Him by giving Him our day and being sensitive to His Word.

Jesus Christ said, "not my will but yours be done."; we pray to know God's will so that our lives may bear fruit. How do you pray? Do you only present God with a list of personal needs, or are you asking God to reveal His will?

Remember that we are in the presence of the Almighty and Sovereign God of the universe, and He can do everything necessary to fulfill His purpose in our lives. He is always available to deal with any problem or situation we present to Him.

God has answers for us, "ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." **He does not promise to give us everything we ask for**, but He will be there to provide us with the answers.

Prayer:

• God, I'm choosing to make prayer my first priority. Help me to love you deeper and to look to you for every need in life.



// Cacho Torres - Latino Pastor

DAY 6

Moving from Duty to Delight

Colossians 1:3-14, Colossians 1:9

Praying does not have to be a duty, it can be a delight. So many times we think of prayer as work! I was reminded what Doug Small says in his book on prayer. He writes, "Some Christians approach prayer as something necessary but undesirable." If we get to the point we view prayer as undesirable we fall into the majority of people that only prays a few minutes of the day because they view prayer as a duty. God desires so much more than that from His children!

If we really have a desire to imitate Christ in our life, then we will view prayer as being a delight instead of it just being our duty. After all, Jesus began His ministry with prayer and He ended His ministry with prayer. There are many times in the life of Jesus that we see him making prayer the main thing instead of just undesired duty. Spurgeon said, "Prayer should be the key of the day and lock of the night."

When Paul was writing to the church at Colosse he reminds them in vs. 3,9 prayer was made continually without ceasing for them. In my opinion, these were prayers of delight and not duty. According Colossians 1:6 these types of prayers bring forth fruit and produce Faith, Hope and Love.

"When Prayer is a Delight instead of Duty, Prayer wonderfully clears the vision; steadies the nerves; defines duty; stiffens the purpose; sweetens and strengthens the spirit." - S. D. Gordon

Prayer:

· Lord, I know that prayer is a blessing, but it is easy for me to consider prayer a duty instead of a delight. Therefore, give me a greater desire to spend time with you in prayer so that I will make prayer a delight instead of a duty. Amen.



// Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor

DAY 7

How Do I Pray?

Matthew 6:5-8

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He taught us how we should pray. In verses 5-8 of chapter 6, Jesus instructed us that when we pray (not if, but when), we are not praying to be "seen by men." Instead, He shares that when we pray we are to go into a private room, shut the door, and pray to our Father who is in secret. Jesus says that our Father who sees in secret will reward us openly!

Then, in verse 7 we are reminded that our prayer time does not need to be "babbling" or "vain repetitions." More than us merely repeating what we have heard others say when they pray, our prayer should be genuine and authentic from our heart. God wants our communication with Him to be transparent, raw, and sincere. We are not trying to impress people, or even impress God for that matter. Remember that He loves us in spite of our flaws and failures. We are simply communicating with our Creator. He wants us to come to Him just as we are - with our struggles, questions, doubts, and fears. He can handle all of that. And our time together with Him in prayer will be the catalyst for Him to begin helping us overcome our struggles, answer our questions, soothe our doubts, and calm our fears!

Prayer:

- *Help me remember that I do not have to impress anyone with my prayers.*
- *Let my prayers be genuine and transparent from my heart to You.*



// **Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor**

DAY 8

The Importance of Reach

Romans 15:7, Matthew 28:19-20

Part of who we are as Christians is being people of REACH. Paul says in Romans 15:7, “so reach out and welcome one another to God’s glory. Jesus did it, now you do it.” The heart beat of the gospel is “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” As Christians we must be on mission to reach out to the lost, hurting, broken, and unfortunate people within our reach. After all, Jesus call us to be SALT and LIGHT in Matthew’s gospel. “You are the salt of the earth.... vs. 14 you are the light of the world. A city can not be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

The importance of Reach is so lives can be supernaturally changed by the message of Jesus Christ. The power of the cross is the only life changing message in the world and if we keep the message to ourself then we will not impact the world for Christ. As we reach lives this year, let us understand the gift of God within us to give to those unchurched. Matthew 9:37-38 says, “then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.”

Prayer:

· Lord, help us to realize our responsibility share the good news of Jesus Christ. If we are going to accomplish our mission for people to “KNOW GOD” then we as Christians must REACH with compassion those who are lost and hurting. Amen!



// Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor

DAY 9

The Impact of Reach

Esther 4:14

Earlier, I described the word impact as influence. The world tells us that to have any significant influence we must be someone or do something that the culture considers important. Is it Facebook worthy? However, there is a wide gap between what the world says and what God says has value. The Bible teaches us that the quiet influence of a gospel-centered life has eternal significance in often unexpected ways.

I'd like to look at the example of Esther as someone who impacted and reached her world through her faith in an unchangeable God!

Our world seems like it is always changing. It's one thing my dad used to say often. "The one thing that you can count on to never change is that everything always changes!"

Growing up an orphaned girl in a Jewish culture where she was being raised by an Uncle in exile, Esther would not seem to have much reach beyond her village. But God had a plan for her life!

In a miraculous turn of events, she finds herself Queen to the Persian Empire when a plot is revealed to destroy all the Jews. Esther was a person God had prepared for such a time as this! Aware that she risked her life, after prayer and fasting, she went before the King and pleaded for her people.

Just as God used one woman's courage to save His people, He still uses men and women today who are willing to proclaim His name.

Prayer:

- *Thank you God, that through your Son Jesus, I can come to you in boldness and Faith and make my request known to you.*
- *I know the days ahead will continue to change, but I also see them as great opportunities to follow Esther's example.*
- *Help me Lord to be brave and courageous and trust You always.*



// Ginger Boyette - Children's Pastor

DAY 10

Increase Our Reach

Ephesians 3:16-21

Stretching is a form of physical exercise that keeps our muscles flexible, strong, and healthy. Whether you stretch or not, hopefully you realize that stretching does increase our flexibility and ultimately can broaden our reach. It's interesting that the same holds true for us spiritually...when we are stretched spiritually, it helps to broaden or increase our reach.

Scripture is full of stories of men and women who were stretched and used by God. Abraham was stretched to sacrifice his son. Moses was stretched as he was called to lead a nation out of bondage. Mary and Joseph were stretched in that God chose them to bring a child conceived by the Holy Spirit into this world. The Apostle Paul was stretched in his Damascus Road experience, life change, and his life's mission. In each of these accounts, God's stretching of these people allowed for a broader reach of people who were impacted.

The same is true for us. As we allow God to stretch us, we become more flexible, stronger, and more spiritually healthy. We position ourselves for God to use us in reaching a broader scope of people. It is God's stretching of us that allows those around us to see Him instead of us. In order for us to extend our reach, we must (1) be intentional in allowing God to use us, (2) be committed/disciplined for God to use us, and (3) be willing to be uncomfortable for a season.

When we allow God to stretch us for His cause, then we will be able to see Him do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

Prayer:

- *Stretch me.*
- *Use me.*
- *Reach people through me.*



// Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor

DAY 11

Prayer + Revival

Acts 4:31

Prayer has always and will always accompany revival.

When I began following Christ, I enjoyed reading and studying historical revivals that shaped Christianity and I was always fascinated by these stories. My walk with Christ was shaped by experiencing the intense power of the Holy Spirit at work at a young age.

In 1904, Wales saw more than 100,000 people come to know Christ in under six months in a revival characterised by prayer, praise and the re-discovery of the Holy Spirit. The leader of this Revival, Evan Roberts, was a man known for his intense, fervent prayer who had believed for over 10 years to see the people of Wales come to know Jesus.

In the 1990's, the infamous Brownsville revival saw more than 200,000 people give their lives to Jesus. The church had laid the groundwork for this revival two and a half years prior by emphasizing prayer & fasting in unique ways.

Let's allow God to awaken the passion and longing for revival in our hearts and in our community. With examples of great faith leaders like Evan Roberts to look to, let's believe for those that don't yet know Christ to give their lives to Him.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31 (NIV)

Prayer:

- *Lord, remind me of the importance of fervent prayer and let revival begin in my heart.*
- *Give us revival until we see Wilson and our surrounding communities come to know Christ as their Savior.*



// **Josh Lynch - Worship & Creative Pastor**

DAY 12

Here I Am, Send Me

Luke 10: 2-9, Isaiah 6:8

Reaching the Lost just doesn't happen unless we as a church are intentional. By this, we have to realize our MISSION and be intentional about continuously being engaged in fulfilling this calling to REACH the lost for Jesus Christ. As I think about reaching this generation, we must be reminded about the process it takes to accomplish this mission.

Let me share a few Biblical perspectives for reaching the Lost. First of all, PRAYER is always the beginning point for everything. My cousin had a saying, "Prayer is always in order." That saying is so important in reaching our community. Luke 10:1-2 says, "After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

Secondly, as we reach out it is important to go in the POWER OF THE SPIRIT. Luke 10:3 says, "now go; I'm sending you out...." We don't go within our own might but we go in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let me close with these two points. As we say Here I am Lord Send me, we must be willing to TRUST God with our efforts and life. Finally, we just have to be willing to SHARE. Luke 10:9 says, "heal the sick who are there, and tell them, "the kingdom of God has come near you."

Prayer:

- *Lord, help me to be more engaged in outreach than I have ever been in my life. Here I am, send me!*
- *As I go out, help me to be a person of prayer, spirit, and faith. Amen!*



// Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor

DAY 13

The Reach Responsibility

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

In writing to the church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul reminds them that they are ambassadors for God. This means that they are representatives or messengers for God in the time and culture they lived within. Paul calls this their “fearful responsibility” to the Lord and says they should work hard to persuade others.

Likewise, this exhortation Paul gives the Corinthian church is just as applicable to our lives today. You see, we are ambassadors for God. This means that we are representatives or messengers for God in the time and culture we live within. This call for us to work hard in persuading others is our “reach responsibility”...and we should fearfully live up to this task.

It is interesting to think that one day most of what we value in the course of our lives will count for nothing - education, careers, accomplishments, prestige, fame, or fortune. These things are not bad in and of themselves, but they pale in comparison to what matters for eternity. When that day comes, the only thing that will matter is what we have done for the Lord. Namely, who we have reconciled, or brought back, to God.

What if we would focus more on this “reach responsibility” moving forward? What if we lived 2 Corinthians 5:20 every day of our lives: “So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’” Not only would this world be a better place, but heaven would be enlarged!

Prayer:

- Allow me to better understand my reach responsibility.
- Help me to live for you & not myself.
- Let my life’s purpose be to bring as many people as I can with me to heaven.



// **Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor**

DAY 14

Our Circle of Influence

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Each one of us has a circle of influence and has the power to influence those around us in a positive or negative way. I believe this is so vital to understand if we are to be intentional about reaching people with the gospel.

Steven Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* says, "Proactive people focus their efforts in the Circle of Influence. They work on the things they can do something about. The nature of their energy is positive, enlarging and magnifying, causing their Circle of Influence to increase. Reactive people, on the other hand, focus their efforts in the Circle of Concern. They focus on the weakness of other people, the problems in the environment, and circumstances over which they have no control. Their focus results in blaming and accusing attitudes, reactive language, and increased feelings of victimization. The negative energy generated by that focus, combined with neglect in areas they could do something about, causes their Circle of Influence to shrink." - Steven Covey

It's easy to focus on carnal things due to our sinful nature (1 Cor 3:3), but mastering living a life devoted to spiritual things and reaching others with the love of Jesus requires intense, **intentional** discipline. Seeing others how Christ sees them involves us refocusing our lens, so to speak, and realizing that the tool that God chooses to use to reach His creation is you and me. It's an awesome and powerful responsibility.

Let's focus on impacting and reaching those that are in our circle of influence one small step or deed at a time.

Prayer:

· *Jesus, I realize that in order to reach those around me with your gospel, I first have to see them through your eyes. Help me take the necessary steps to focus on and enlarge my circle of influence in order to bring others closer to you.*



// Josh Lynch - Worship & Creative Pastor

DAY 15

The Importance of Serving

Hebrews 6:10, 1 Corinthians 15:58

It is so important to understand that God has not saved you just to get to heaven. Instead, He has saved you to take as many people to heaven with you as possible. According to the Bible, we are called to be people with servant hearts. The greatest in the kingdom of God are those with servants hearts according to Matthew 23:11.

Serving God by serving others is not always easy. However, the Bible uses phrases over and over to stress the importance of serving one another. Some of the examples that comes to my attention are: "Care for one another." "Pray for one another." "Help one another." "Encourage one another." These are just a few to mention because the list could go on. Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, "God.....has made us what we are and given us new lives from Jesus Christ; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others." (TLB)

As we go back to the basics of Christianity, PRAYING, REACHING, AND SERVING are all on God's priority list for His people. In fact, it is His will that we be engaged in all of these areas. Paul writes in Galatians, "You, my brothers, were call to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in Love." (Gal. 5:13). If I had to sum up the importance of the Serving others it would consist of two reasons. First, serving others is the WILL OF GOD. Second, serving others is important because it CHANGES LIVES!

Prayer:

• *Lord, help me to realize the importance of serving others.*
• *Help me use my gifts and talents to serve others in order to build the kingdom of God because it is your will and it changes lives, it helps people find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. Amen!*



// Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor

DAY 16

Serving Each Other in Marriage

Ephesians 5, 2 Corinthians 11:2

When we think of serving others, we may think of volunteering in the community, church, or doing nice things for our coworkers, friends/neighbors or strangers. However, serving should really begin in our marriage/home.

Maybe you're single or widowed, but don't stop reading just yet. This applies to everyone. In Ephesians chapter 5, Paul writes that husbands and wives are to submit to one another and serve each other as the church submits to Christ. God even used the life & marriage of the prophet Hosea to deliver a powerful message to the people regarding their unfaithfulness and Christ's love for us.

I believe a successful marriage requires serving each other and falling in love again every day. We have to be intentional about this and choose to make this a habit. It's less about storybook romantic feelings and more about small intentional routine actions. That's just like our love for Christ. We serve him, and we serve others because it's in our heart, not because it's a duty.

True love is sacrificial and serving others is the ultimate sacrifice. Paul's letter to Ephesus offers solid marriage advice: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." The word submit also means "to serve." When you have a servant's attitude toward your spouse, you are acting like Jesus. If you're a servant lover, you'll look for ways to serve your spouse through simple, routine, ordinary acts of kindness. You'll do it for no special reason or payback; instead, you'll serve as an expression of your love for them. You can fall in love every day & express that love in practical acts of service

Prayer:

· *For Spouses: "God, show me ways that I can serve my spouse better and to fall in love with them every day. Help me love you the same way.*

For singles/widows: "God, give me opportunities to love other people like you love your bride, the church (me).



// **Josh Lynch - Worship & Creative Pastor**

DAY 17

Gifted to Serve

1 Peter 4:7-11

Peter wrote this letter to Jewish believers who were struggling in the midst of persecution all around. He encouraged them to handle themselves with courage for Christ and His mission. In a similar fashion, we also sense persecution rising today as we strive to stand for our faith. Peter's letter speaks boldly to us that we, too, need to be courageous for Christ and His mission - a mission that we are called to carry on!

In 1 Peter 4:10, Peter reminds us that we all have received a gift (an ability or talent that God has given us to use) and that we are to use that gift to serve others. Another way of saying it is that we have a responsibility to serve. Just think...each of us has been gifted by God to serve other people. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has gifted me and you with something to enable us to serve other people for Him. That is incredible! So, what are we doing with our giftedness? Are we using it? Are we striving to improve it? Or are we tucking it away and hiding it? Are we even aware what our ability is?

You are gifted by God! You are gifted to serve, so let's make sure we are submissive to the Lord and that we are courageous for Him & His mission. He chose to use us in reaching others. So suit up, put your armor on, and let's advance His Kingdom!

Prayer:

- *Father, help me to be courageous.*
- *Thank you for gifting me with talent & ability. Help me to know what it is and give me the wisdom to put it to use.*
- *Allow me to serve others and point them toward You!*



// **Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor**

DAY 18

The Impact of Serving

Mark 10:45, Luke 8:2, Luke 12:1-7, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 Galatians 5:13

There is great impact when we serve others. Jesus declared to His disciples that the son of man did not come to this world to be served but to serve. Consider Mary Magdalene. She was a woman who knew she'd been forgiven much. With a brand new heart and desires, she now experienced love and joy like she had never known. Mary Magdalene was mentioned in Luke as one of the women that served and supported Jesus from her own means as He and the disciples ministered to the people.

There also was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, whose love for her Savior motivated her to pour costly perfume on Jesus' head and feet as an act of worship and honor to Him. She was chastised by Judas for such a wasteful use of resources but Mary knew Jesus was worth all she had to give. The aroma of her gift has spread throughout every generation, reminding us that a life overflowing with thanksgiving to Christ spreads a fragrance everywhere.

What fragrance is coming from your life? The more we realize how much we have been forgiven, the more we will agree that no sacrifice is too great. God's Word tells us in Galatians that we are free but as followers of Christ we should use our freedom not to indulge our flesh but to serve one another in love.

When we forget about self in our desire to live for Christ, we will stop being consumed with what others think of us or what others declare has value. And it is there, in the midst of our ordinary days that the impact of our words, attitudes, and actions quietly make a difference.

Prayer:

- *Thank you God, that through your Son Jesus, I can come to you in boldness and Faith and make my request known to you.*
- *Help us today to live intentionally, mindful that every moment is a gift and an opportunity to know, love and serve the living God, Jesus Christ our Savior.*



// **Ginger Boyette - Children's Pastor**

DAY 19

The Heart of a Servant

John 13, Matthew 20:28

Jesus' mission was not only to come to earth to save mankind, but to serve. In John chapter 4 we see that Jesus "went out of his way" to find the Samaritan woman at the well. We see Jesus washing his disciples' feet in John 13. And in Matthew 20:28 He said "I came, not to be served, but to serve. If serving is clearly the very heart of God, it should be a huge part of our daily lives as well.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, God wants you to serve people. Serving is about taking the first step from meaning well, to doing well. If you're a new Christian, find a way to serve. Get on a team within our church and do something you're good at to advance the gospel and serve other people. If you're a seasoned Christian, find unique ways to show others that you care. Especially those who don't attend church.

Having the heart of a servant is also about sacrifice. It may take time, energy, or even finances, but it's something we choose to do. It's not something we have to do, but when it's something we choose to do, God honors it.

Lastly, having the heart of a servant unlocks potential. This is why I believe it's so important to be planted and invested in your church and serve on a team. From creativity to leadership to administration, God has given different gifts and talents in each and every one of us. Serving on a team allows us to discover what it is that God has placed on our lives. It allows us to use and grow in these gifts, in order to glorify God, and help serve people as we build His house.

Prayer:

- *Jesus, help me to see others how you see them. Help me love and serve with my whole heart without expecting anything in return.*
- *Help me to take my next step by serving others in some way. Show me opportunities to use my gifts to make a difference in someone else's life.*



// **Josh Lynch - Worship & Creative Pastor**

DAY 20

Serve One Another

Matthew 20:20-28, Galatians 5:13-15

It is very clear in the scripture references above, as well as throughout the entire Bible, that we are all called to service. The pinnacle of our service is to Christ as we serve Him with the entirety of our lives. This includes our time, our talent, and certainly our treasure. Interestingly, one of the greatest pathways of us serving the Lord is through our serving of others. In other words, we simply strive to “serve God through serving others.” This is one of the mantras of Farmington Heights Church. Corporately and individually, we want to serve God through serving people.

Our serving is not meant to gain us a preferable place at the table. It simply is an act of worship to our King. He set the example... He modeled it for us (Matthew 20:28). Likewise, the freedom Christ brings into our lives is not a license for our flesh. Rather, our freedom renders us unhindered from the manipulation of man. Instead, we are able to serve others through a motivation of love - love for God and love for His creation. We do not serve others to get preferential treatment or a hand up. Our serving is actually our obedience to the commands of Christ. Let's be more aware of our call to serve God through serving others!

Prayer:

- *Lord, help me ensure I am serving You in every area of my life.*
- *May my serving be for the right motive - worship and not manipulation.*
- *Let me serve You by serving others!*



// Scott Sauls - Administrative Pastor

DAY 21

You Are Significant

Galatians 5:13

Within all of us, there is a desire to be significant. We are all searching for something to provide value to our lives. We could refer to it as purpose, meaning, significance or something else. The point is all want to live a life that matters and that has meaning. One of the ways that is shown is in the way we serve others. So many times people have this idea in order to be “called” by God is something only pastors, youth pastors, missionaries, evangelist, or other church leaders experience. However, that is the furthest from the truth. The Bible says everyone is called to serve God by serving others. “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)

The sad reality is only a small minority of people use their lives to serve others, but Jesus said, “If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.” (Mark 8:35, LB). Being significant in the kingdom of God is not how great I am or how talented but rather “am I willing to serve with a willing heart of Love for others.” Paul says, “Serve one another in LOVE.” You are most like Jesus when you are serving others. Jesus said himself after washing the disciples feet, “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

Prayer:

• Lord, help us to realize our responsibility share the good news of Jesus Christ. If we are going to accomplish our mission for people to “KNOW GOD” then we as Christians must REACH with compassion those who are lost and hurting. Amen!



// Daylon Mooneyham - Lead Pastor

NOTES

