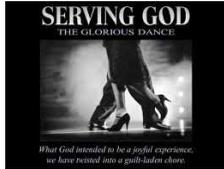




# Serving God 2 IN THE HOUSE & OUT IN THE FIELDS





**Josh 24:15** → *Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve ... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

→ *What do you think of these quotes?*

**STARTING POINT** = Our Master SERVED (See John 13:13-15)

→ *What can we learn from Jesus washing His disciples' feet?*

**Matthew 20:28** → *The Son of Man did not come to be SERVED, but to SERVE, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

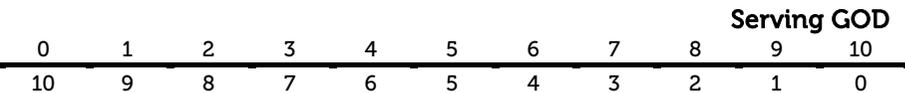
**Philippians 2:5-8** → *<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same MINDSET as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a SERVANT ...*

\* In Kingdom, sons + daughters FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE of the king and SERVE.

JESUS demonstrated a NEW WAY (Matt 23:11-12)

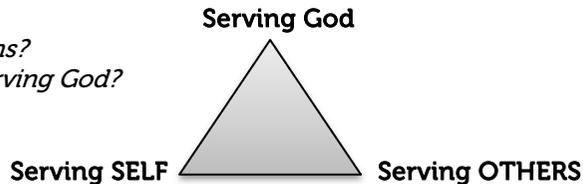
\* To get HIGHER, you must go LOWER. To be GREAT, you must become a SERVANT.  
To get the MOST, you must become the LEAST.

**CHALLENGE: Who are we serving?**



**Serving SELF**

→ *Where are you on these diagrams?*  
→ *Is serving others the same as serving God?*



**DISCUSS** this Warren Wiersbe quote: *"If we live to please ourselves and God, we are trying to serve two masters and this never works. If we live to please men, we will always be in trouble because no two men will agree and we will find ourselves caught in the middle. Walking in the light - living to please God - simplifies our goals, unifies our lives and gives us a sense of peace and poise."*

**OUR PURPOSE** as individuals / as a church = To live a SIMPLE life, where we TRUST God, WORSHIP God and SERVE Him.  
= KEY to a SATISFYING, UNCOMPLICATED, FRUITFUL life ... Which in C21<sup>st</sup> existence is by no means guaranteed.

**Making a 'once-and-for-all decision to serve God does 3 things:**

- a) Puts God on the THRONE of your life → Which is actually liberating, because it means you don't have to be, which can be quite exhausting..
- b) Gives up trying to PLEASE EVERYONE around us → which, of course, is impossible.
- c) Moves your whole life onto a HIGHER PLANE = His ways, purposes, priorities.  
→ *How do you measure according to those three criteria? Any room for growth? How else would this mindset affect your life?*

**WHAT COULD / SHOULD OUR SERVING LOOK LIKE?**

1. **We serve in HOUSE** = One another: Love, serve, encourage, mentor, forgive, etc.
2. **We serve in FIELD** = Mission to World: Jesus saw ripe fields, helpless sheep + said Go
  - \* It's not EITHER / OR, but BOTH / AND. Not necessarily in EQUAL MEASURE. It might look different from one SEASON to the next.
  - \* God wants you to "GROW where you're PLANTED."
 → *Define 'House' and 'Field.' What's the difference? Is either more important? Do you feel that right now God has called you to focus on one or the other? Have you had different seasons in your life? Did you have to make sacrifices to be available? → What does it mean to 'grow where you're planted?'*
3. **We serve WHOLEHEARTEDLY** = "As unto the Lord"
  - \* Ephesians 6:7-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11, Deuteronomy 10:12, Colossians 3:22-24
  - \* What does the Lord ask of you? To SERVE Him with ALL your HEART & SOUL. → With DILIGENCE, COMMITMENT, FAITHFULNESS, EXCELLENCE.
  - \* Ultimately, it's GOD you're serving ... He's the One to whom you must give GIVE ACCOUNT ... The 'audience of one'
 → *For you, is it 'as unto the Lord?' In your work, with your family, at church? Or is there another motivation, however subtle?*

4. **We serve with GLADNESS** = ATTITUDE is EVERYTHING (Psalm 100:1-2)
  - \* Isn't SERVING a significant part of our WORSHIP?
  - \* Not a REPLACEMENT for .... Perhaps the RESULT of?
  - \* If our life is the overflow of relationship, serving will be WORSHIP, not OBLIGATION (2 Corinthians 9:7)
  - \* With good attitude, out of right motivations, to give not get, it's totally DIFFERENT → Whether people respond +ve or react -ve ... Express gratitude or something less pleasant ... Anyone notices or not
 → *The ACID TEST of your act of service is how it makes you feel. Does it result in pain or pleasure? Discuss!*

5. **We serve TOGETHER**

- \* Together it's just more FUN, FULFILLING, FRUITFUL ... How dull to be a lone-wolf

**RESPONSE**

1. **Where are you on continuum?** Are you available to the Master for His service? What's your mindset? What do you consider your purpose?
2. **When you serve what's your attitude?** Wholehearted or half-hearted? Cheerful of begrudging? Good days and bad days?
3. **Are you growing where you've been planted?** Whether house or field? Doing what God's called you to do, to best of your ability, for His glory?