

Mission Revisited Part 3

SERVING GOD

→ *How are you 'wired'? Does serving come naturally to you? Does it provide you with great joy? Does your flesh scream 'serve me,' instead?*
→ *Why did the psalmist write, 'Serve the Lord with gladness?'*

OPENING PREMISE: We serve because ...

1. We HAVE to, like a slave.
 2. We NEED to, like an employee wanting a pay cheque.
 3. We WANT to, out of loving relationship.
- *Which of those is it for you? Which should it be? How do we change it from 'have to' & 'need to' to 'want to'?*

BIG IDEA: Ideally, the desire to serve OVERFLOWS from HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP.

→ *How does this play out in your natural relationships? What about in your relationship with the Lord?*

SEQUENCE or CYCLE or BOTH?

1. Meet Walk Serve is a LINEAR SEQUENCE

- a) As we MEET with God, out of encounter & revelation grow INTIMACY.
- b) That catalysed relationship & deepened desire for fellowship INSPIRES us to WALK with God
- c) And that then OVERFLOWS, as an inevitable consequence, into SERVING God.

→ *Can you explain in your own words how that process / sequence works? How do the 'overflow' & 'fire' analogies fit?*

What if the sequence BREAKS DOWN?

- * If you never MEET with God, you'll have less & less MOTIVATION to WALK with God.
- * If you're not WALKING with God, there'll be less & less INTIMACY, DEVOTION or DIALOGUE.
- * And your SERVING will soon become 'RELIGION.'

→ *What potentially happens if you miss out one of meet, walk or serve?*
→ *Has your service ever become a little dry? Does this illustrate why that might have been the case?*

2. Meet Walk Serve is also CYCLICAL

- * As you serve God, you realise how much you NEED Him.
- * & that DRIVES you back onto your knees in WORSHIP.
- * As your own INADEQUACIES & INABILITIES creep to the surface, you're reminded, once again, of the importance of WALKING with God.
- * & that drives you back into your PRAYER CLOSET, back into the WORD & back into FELLOWSHIP.
- * If you serve without meeting & walking, the FLAMES start to DIM.
- * As you meet & walk, you stack fresh LOGS on the FIRE.

→ *Why do your own inadequacies, if handled properly, lead you back into meeting & then walking with God?*

→ *Have you ever been on a mission trip &, if so, how did it inspire your Christian walk?*

→ *"If there is no output, there will be no need for input." Why then is serving so vital to your sense of fulfilment as a Christian?*

→ *"If there is plenty of output, there will need to be replenishing input." Why, when you are consistently serving, does there need to be all the more meeting & walking?*

Serving God, The Glorious Dance: What God intended to be a JOYOUS experience, we have twisted into a GUILT-LADEN CHORE.

→ *How do we turn it into a guilt-laden chore? How instead does it become a joyous experience, even a glorious dance?*

→ *What is your take-away from this message / series? Is God calling to more serving? Or perhaps to deeper meeting or more consistent walking?*
