

# WE COME HERE TO SERVE

## Mt 20:20-28 and Mk 10:35-45

### I. INTRODUCTION:

#### A. OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY, PURPOSE AND MISSION

1. **Who** we are: body of Christ and children of God
2. **Why** we exist: to love God and our neighbor
3. **What** we do: make disciples

#### B. OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT (GSBC)

**We exist to glorify God and make disciples by loving and serving people in all situations of life. “**

#### C. WHAT WE DO TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

- Worship
- Give
- Teach
- Serve
- Witness

#### D. KEY FOUNDATIONS

- a. Worship—**all** we do flows from our **devotion** to God
- b. Giving—good **stewardship** of what God gives us—**glorifies** Him and **serves** others
- c. Teaching—**how we do** our mission depends on **how effectively we teach** the body
- d. Serving—**serving** *others* is how we show God we **love** Him

### II. WHAT IS MINISTRY?

#### A. DEFINITION—(TO) MINISTER

1. Verb = **διακονεω** = to run errand—to attend another’s needs [as in [Acts 6](#)]
2. Noun = **διακονος** = deacon—servant

3. Summary: to minister = **serve** or **help**

## **B. WHO IS A 'MINISTER'?** [NOW—AND—FUTURE]

### 1. NOW—*EVERY* CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO SERVE

- Not only a *gift*—there is a spiritual gift of serving
- Not only a vocational *call*—some are called 'ministers' on church staff
- But **all** Christians are called to serve

- a. This is a **product** of our worship

*Rom 12:1—I urge you brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

- b. We are part of the priesthood of **all** and **every** believers

*I Pe 2:5—you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

- c. No longer is anyone excluded—natural 'perfection' not required

- ✦ Leviticus required unblemished descendants of Aaron—(**Lev 21:16-24**)
- ✦ Even Babylonians allowed 'perfect' men as priests—(see **Daniel 1:3-4**)
- ✦ We're made right for service by **cleansing** of Christ's **blood**
- ✦ If we reject our call to serve—we squander His payment for our sin

### 2. **FUTURE**—*EVERY* CHRISTIAN WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE IN *HEAVEN*

- a. We will serve God **forever**

*Rev 22:3—And there will be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants will serve him.*

- b. **Preparation** for **eternal** service begins **now**

1. To *partake* at His table later—we must *serve* at His table now
2. **Jesus** demonstrated this truth—by what he **said** and **did**
  - a. By what he **said**—**Luke 22**
    1. Context—before Lord’s Supper—they disputed who was greatest
    2. Jesus’ teaching—whoever eats at table must be prepared to serve

*Lk 22: 27, 29-30—For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But **I AM** among you as the one who serves . . . and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

- b. By what He **did**—**Jn 11**—He washed their feet

*Jn 13:12-17—If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

### **III. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SERVANTHOOD—MT 20 and MK 10**

#### **A. CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 20**

1. Jesus blessed children
2. Rich young ruler—would not give all for Christ
3. Peter wanted to know what they would get—for leaving everything for Christ
4. Jesus’ responded with four promises—they would:
  - Rule over Israel [**Matthew**]
  - Get 100 [**Mark**] many [**Matthew**] times as much in this world]
  - Be persecuted [**Mark**]
  - Have eternal life [both **Matthew** and **Mark**]
5. Jesus prophesied two things:

- a. Great reversal of fortunes
  - Prophecy: **first** shall be last, and **last** will be first
  - Parable [[Matthew](#)]—Vineyard Workers—**last** will be first, and **first** will be last
- b. Foretold his death

## B. READ THE TEXT: [MT 20:20-28](#)

*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. "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." "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. 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." When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 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. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—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."*

## C. APPLICATION

1. Even Jesus **did not pretend to give what He did not have**
  - Positions **in** the kingdom were not his—but His Father's—[verse 23](#)
2. He **did have a kingdom**—[Lk 22:29](#)—and grants **us** a place at the table
3. But our *place* in the Kingdom depends on—our being servants
  - Just as Jesus the Master came as ‘the Servant’—we too must be servants—[Lk 22](#)
  - Greatness in the kingdom is measured by sacrificial servanthood—[verses 26-27](#)
  - Jesus Himself modeled this—making the ultimate sacrifice—[verse 28](#)
4. The **paradox** of ‘serving’ and ‘reigning’

- a. Two **examples** of this paradox
  1. **Disciples were to serve**—but they would sit on **thrones of judgment**—**Lk 22**
  2. **Rev 22: 3, 5**—we will **serve and reign** eternally—seems to be contradictory
- b. Jesus Himself came as the ‘**Master**’ who ‘**served**’!
- c. Answer to the riddle—is “servant of whom?”
  1. Jesus did *servant-type* things to help others—He came as ‘the Servant’
  2. But Jesus was “servant of whom?”—Ultimately the **Father**—not men!
  3. He came to do the **Father’s** will—and to please **Him**—not men
    - He ransomed humankind—in obedience to the **Father**—to serve Him
    - He lay down His life—to show love for the **Father**—by serving us!
    - He *reigns* today—and still serves us—by interceding with the **Father**

#### **IV. WHAT SERVANTS DO**

1. Servants **receive** things from the Master
2. So they **have** something others need—goods, products, value-added things
3. Servants **give** these things to others—to **help** them
4. Servants **links** the source to the user/consumer—unbroken chain of custody [stewardship]

**EX: Serving meals on military plane—passing down aisle from person to person**

#### 5. APPLICATION

- a. This is what Christ did
  - He had ‘life’ [He *was* life]
  - He died to conquer sin and death
  - So He might secure eternal life—and give it to us

b. We do the same thing

1. He has **given** us life—we die to self and rise again—to eternal life!
2. We **have** eternal life—so we might **share** His gospel of hope with others
3. As **servants**—we already *share* in His **reign**—and authority
4. Helping to redeem creation—by serving the Father—and calling others to His table!

## V. HOW TO BE A SERVANT—HOW TO MINISTER

### 1. RECOGNIZE **OPPORTUNITIES** FOR MINISTRY

1. Develop the ability to see the need

2. **Example: very next biblical passage—Mt 20:29-34—two blind men of Jericho**

- Above the roar of the crowd—he heard the blind men
- Against the advice of the crowd—he pursued and answered their need
- Their need was important to Him—enough 'bother' with it

3. APPLICATION

- Ask God to give us spiritual sight to see the need
- Often we don't recognize needs as important enough to bother with
- Ask God to give us the resources to meet the need

### 2. CULTIVATE A **COMPASSIONATE** ATTITUDE

- See—**Mt 20:34**—two blind men
- "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes."

### 3. DEVELOP A **GIVING** SPIRIT

- a. This is not 'natural'—human nature is greedy and acquisitive
- b. This grows with compassion
- c. This is ultimately a **blessing**

**Acts 20:35** ...the Lord Jesus Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

#### 4. RESPOND **SPONTANEOUSLY** TO THE SPIRIT

- a. Jesus answered needs immediately unless He had reason to delay—e.g. testing faith
- b. Disciples followed and obeyed—followed Jesus 'straightway'—immediately and fully
- c. But they obeyed God—not every dictate or 'need' of men

#### 5. SERVE WITH **HUMILITY**

- a. Not with a haughty/arrogant spirit
  - Be **opposite** of those who 'lord it over' others—**Mt 20: 25-26**
- b. But with the attitude **opposite** to that of the **world**
  - The **first** will be **last**, and the **last** will be **first**
  - In order to be a good **ruler** one must first be a good **servant**

#### 6. PRACTICE **SELFLESS** SERVICE

- Avoid recognition—as in the Sermon on the Mount
- **Mt 6:3**—*But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.*

#### 7. **FOCUS** FIRST ON THE NEEDS OF THE **BODY**

- The first priority of 'spiritual service' in **Rom 12**—to serve the church
- Church must be healthy and functional first—in order to help others

#### 8. SHOW **COMPASSION** ESPECIALLY FOR THE **WEAK**

- a. The turning point in Jesus' challenge—to the Rich Young Ruler

**Mt 19:21**—*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

- b. The proof of genuine discipleship—and being ‘kingdom’ people

*Mt 25: 40—Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.*

- c. IMPLICATION-APPLICATION

- How we treat—hungry—thirsty—stranger—naked—sick—imprisoned
- This obviously takes us quickly outside the confines of the Church

## 9. SET THE **EXAMPLE** FOR OTHERS—ROLE MODELLING

- a. **Jesus** did it—EX: foot-washing **JN 13:5-20**

- b. **Paul** did last three things:

- Worked hard
- Helped the weak
- Set the example

*Acts 20: 34-35—You yourselves know that these hands **ministered** to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the word of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

## 10. SERVE NOT JUST THE WEAK—BUT ALSO THE **UNLOVELY**

- a. Even those you don't care for—Sermon on Mount—**love** your **enemies**, pray for them

- b. **Jesus** washed even **Judas'** feet!

- This occurred during their meal
- Judas left in the middle of the Supper—before the “Lord's Supper” part
- But *not* before Jesus washed his feet—see JN 13:21ff

## 11. **ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SERVE**

- By **allowing** others to work—not trying to do it all ourselves
- By **noticing** others' gifts—and pointing out where they can serve



- By **teaching**—role modeling—mentoring and coaching
- By **thanking** and **praising** others for their efforts

## 12. LET OTHERS DO FOR YOU!

- Allow others to serve us too—when we are in need
- When we refuse to be served—this is spiritual pride
- It takes **humility** to give someone else the **privilege** of serving us
- A key point in the foot-washing by Jesus—remember Peter

## 13. WORK HARD AND PERSISTENTLY AT IT

- Like prayer—actually **do** it—don't just *talk* about it

*Jas 1:22—prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers*

### John Wesley's rule:

Do all the **good** you can  
 by all the **means** you can  
 in all the **ways** you can  
 in all the **places** you can  
 at all the **times** you can  
 to all the **people** you can  
 and as **long** as you can.