

Regaining Our Purpose

An Example We Can't Afford To Miss:

Luke 18:35-19:28

Reclaiming What Was Stolen:

Ephesians 2:8-10 Philippians 2:1-18

- Because of page 3:
 - ✓ We have become the **center** of our **universe**.
 - ✓ "Servant" has become a **dirty word**.
 - ✓ Serving has to be **learned and strategic**.
- Each of us are uniquely created to do **great works**.
 - ✓ Serving is where we discover:
Purpose Calling Jesus
- The Christian life should never include
boredom or **retirement**.

A Picture Is Worth 1,000 Words:

John 13:1-17

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 22, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when someone served you in a surprising or profound way? How did that make you feel?

2. How would you have defined greatness when you were a kid? Have you seen your view of greatness change over the years? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Opportunities to serve and impact others in small but significant ways occur randomly around all of us every day. It's been said that our impact on others is usually not one single act, but many acts of service piled together. As you read the story in Luke 10:30-36 of the Good Samaritan and his random opportunity to serve, make a list of all the ways he served the man who was robbed.

Luke 10:30-36 *New International Version (NIV)*

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

In the list you wrote above, which one comes easiest to you? Which one is the most challenging?

2. After a message like we heard this weekend, most of us are charged up and ready to serve, living out our calling and purpose to put others first. Yet, it's also frustrating when we suddenly find the passion and action of serving fading away. How does Deuteronomy 8:10-18 help keep us "others-focused"?

Deuteronomy 8:10-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹⁵ He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. ¹⁶ He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go

well with you. ¹⁷ You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

An attitude of gratitude and thankfulness is directly related to our ability to serve others.
Agree/Disagree?

3. Fortunately, the same Spirit that God gave the disciples is also available to all of us who are genuine followers of Jesus. That means we have a supernatural resource to help us serve and make changes that we never thought possible. Read the following passages and identify the Spirit’s role in empowering us for ministry.

Acts 1:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

John 14:26 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:4-5 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Can you think of any reasons why God is so concerned about people relying on his power for service and ministry and not just their own power?

Can you think of any examples in your own life that have been helpful in reminding you of your need to rely on God’s power?

TAKING IT HOME

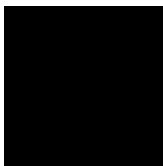
This weekend we heard how our service should be strategic. Take a couple of minutes to talk to God and ask him how he would like you to serve. Looking at the categories below, is he nudging you in any specific direction to increase your service, to represent Christ better or to continue to serve as you have been?

At home?

At work?

Trying a new role of service in the church, community or other?

Praise/Prayer Requests:



THE DAILY DOSE – Want a daily dose of a devotional throughout the “Identity Theft” sermon series? Text the keyword “daily” to 51400 to receive quick devotional videos and resources throughout the week. Standard text message rates apply. For questions, please email info@northcoastchurch.com



BREAKFAST N' CHAT – Interfaith in Carlsbad - New!

Project: Make and serve a nourishing breakfast for 20 men that come from La Posada Men’s Shelter. Volunteers are encouraged to stay and chat after serving breakfast.

Day: Saturday mornings, Carlsbad Interfaith

Time: Arrive by 6:30am

<http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/interfaith-community-services-3/>

GREEN OAK RANCH GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION – Saturday, Nov. 11, 8am-12pm. We could use about 30 to 60+ people on this project.

Duties: Project may include gardening, planting, weeding, raking paths, hauling away debris, painting and basic landscaping. Our Team Leader is John Westbrook.

- **Date/Time:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 8am-12pm
- **Meet:** 1237 Green Oak Road in Vista, CA 92081
- **Bring:** Gloves, hats, close-toed shoes, sun block & water
- **Child Friendly:** Yes, but we ask for parental supervision at all times
- **Tools to Bring:** Rakes, shovels, hand trowels, hand clippers of any size, brooms, dust pans & wheelbarrows
- <http://northcoastcommunityservice.org/organization/green-oak-ranch/>