

GOD'S PLAN



WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR THE
FULL SERMON



WEEK 6

SERVING IN THE CHURCH

Mark 10:45

This message challenges us to examine our hearts when it comes to serving in the church. Drawing from Mark 10:45, we're reminded that even Jesus, the Son of Man, didn't come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. This powerful truth sets the foundation for understanding that service isn't about earning God's favor—Ephesians 2:8-10 makes clear we're saved by grace through faith, not works. Yet because we've been saved, good works should naturally flow from our lives. The sermon confronts our common excuses: lack of time, feeling unqualified, waiting to be asked, or simply not knowing where to start. But here's the beautiful truth: God has given each of us a unique spiritual gift, whether for speaking or serving, and He expects us to use it. The woman who poured expensive perfume on Jesus exemplifies sacrificial service—she did what she could, despite criticism from others. The question we must wrestle with is simple yet profound: Are we doing what we can? Or are we like passengers in a truck, insisting others don't need our help when we haven't even bothered to check? The church isn't just a Sunday morning experience—it's a community where we're called to serve especially those in the household of faith, demonstrating our love for Christ through tangible acts of service throughout the week.

DAY 1: The Heart of Service

Reading:

Mark 10:35-45

35 James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Jesus, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. 40 But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. 42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Devotional:

Jesus revolutionizes our understanding of greatness. While James and John sought positions of honor, Jesus pointed to the cross. True greatness is found not in being served, but in serving others. The Son of Man—the most powerful person to ever walk the earth—came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom. This is staggering. If Jesus, who deserved all honor, chose the path of servanthood, how should we respond? Today, reflect on where you're seeking recognition rather than opportunities to serve. The kingdom operates on an upside-down economy where the last are first and servants are greatest. Let Christ's example reshape your definition of significance.

DAY 2: Saved by Grace to Serve**Reading:*****Ephesians 2:8-10***

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Devotional:

We are saved by grace through faith—not by our works. This truth liberates us from performance-based religion. Yet verse 10 reveals the beautiful purpose: we are God's workmanship, created for good works He prepared beforehand. We don't serve to earn salvation; we serve because we've been saved. Our works are the evidence of genuine faith, not the foundation of it. James says faith without works is dead. When God's grace transforms your heart, service naturally flows from gratitude. Consider this: if someone rescued you from a burning building, wouldn't you want to tell others about them? Service is our response to the rescue Jesus accomplished on the cross.

DAY 3: Love Made Visible**Reading:*****John 13:34-35***

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Galatians 6:10

10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Devotional:

Words alone don't convince the world of our love. Jesus commands us to love one another as He loved us—and the world will recognize His disciples by this love. But how is love seen? Through action and service. Just as a spouse knows they're loved through daily acts of care, our church family experiences Christ's love through how we serve one another. Paul emphasizes doing good "especially to those who are of the household of faith." The church is God's preferred method for service. Before serving the Salvation Army or your neighborhood, are you serving your spiritual family? When believers consistently care for one another, it becomes a powerful witness that draws others to Christ.

DAY 4: Discovering Your Gift

Reading:

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 12:6-8

6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Devotional:

God has given every believer a special gift—either speaking or serving. These gifts aren't for personal benefit but for serving others as good stewards of God's grace. Imagine God calling to ask how you've used the gift He gave you years ago. Would you feel embarrassed? The best way to discover your gift is simply to start serving. Try different ministries. Some won't fit, and that's okay—cross them off and try something else. Eventually, you'll find where you excel, where you're energized rather than drained, and where others are blessed. Your service tells others what you think about God. When you serve, you're declaring He's worth it. Don't let your gift gather dust.

DAY 5: She Did What She Could

Reading:

Mark 14:3-9

3 While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. 4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

Devotional:

A woman broke an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus. Others criticized the waste, but Jesus defended her: "She has done what she could." What a powerful commendation. She didn't worry about judgment or calculate the cost—she simply gave what she had to honor Christ. The question for us is haunting: Have we done what we could? Or are we waiting for the perfect time, the right opportunity, or someone to ask us? This woman served sacrificially, and Jesus memorialized her act. Our service may seem small, but when done out of love for Christ, it's beautiful in His sight. Today, don't wait for ideal circumstances. Do what you can with what you have, where you are.