

<https://youtu.be/OT2ysXGngS4>

Loving and serving others is my second priority.

Video Key Points:

- This affirmation is simple to understand but not easy to incorporate into our life. The beginning point is just deciding that you want to serve others on behalf of Jesus. Often we have to take the step of declaring it in our heart and with our words before it is actually true in practice. Azya in her short message this past Sunday hit that idea perfectly, as she declared she wants it to be true for her and so is publicly committing herself to following through.
- How then to put it into practice. Here are some questions to think through:
- Question #1 - What are the needs around me? We can pray and ask the Lord to open our eyes to where we can love and serve others in our life?
- Question #2 – What do I have to give? How has my God gifted or equipped me to do in His service? Take time to assess your skills, your past, your natural talents, and commit those to serving God. God has been at work in your life so that you are able to love and serve others.
- Question #3 – What has the Lord put on my heart? Is He leading you to invest your time in a specific ministry or path to service? In a recent conversation one woman told me how she just loves to work with younger children to teach the Bible and that doing that fills her up. Yeah – that’s the leading of God.
- *The phrase "when I run, I feel his pleasure" is a famous line from the 1981 movie Chariots of Fire, spoken by the character Eric Liddell. The quote reflects the idea that running is a way for the character to feel connected to God's purpose and to experience joy in his abilities.*
- I can say that when I am planning out a message/sermon, that “I feel his pleasure” and know that I’m connected to God’s purpose for me.
- Question #4 – What are the competing demands for my time? In order to serve well we have to consider how to balance the different time demands, and opportunities to serve. We cannot do everything and are not called to try. It may be that in order to say Yes! to what God is leading us toward means saying No to something else.
- Question #5 – Who has God put in my path? This comes from the parable of the Good Samaritan when Jesus expands on what it means to love our neighbor. The priest and Levite pass by the man who had been beaten and left beside the road. The Samaritan by contrast, has compassion and stops to help, sacrificing both his time and money to care for his “neighbor” from a different ethnicity. And that leads to one more good question:
- Question #6 – Am I interruptible? Do I get so caught up in the things on my to-do list or my schedule that I cannot stop and respond to an opportunity to serve another?

Questions for Understanding:

- *Read I John 3:16-18 – How does abiding in God’s love – spur us to action in showing love to help/serve/love others?*
- *Matthew 5:40-42 – Can you think of an example of this kind of action for our modern day culture? Are there times to love/serve out of obedience even when our heart is not in it?*

Personal Exercise: Make a big square Grid with 4 boxes. Put these four categories:

Family/Home

Church

Work/Social

Community

- Then prayerfully for each category jot down ways you have been able to show love/serve in that arena. As you do, listen to the Holy Spirit, considering if there are more opportunities or where you feel a draw to serve.
- Share in your group any insights from doing this.

Life Questions:

- Which of the 5 devotional days spoke most to you this week?
- Out of these 6 questions, which one is relevant for you right now?

Question #1 - What are the needs around me?

Question #2 – What do I have to give?

Question #3 – What has the Lord put on my heart?

Question #4 – What are the competing demands for my time?

Question #5 – Who has God put in my path?

Question #6 – Am I interruptible?

- Galatians 6:9-10 – What can keep us from growing weary in our service?

Closing in Prayer: Use one of the Devotion prayers or Pray using your own Words