

THE LOCAL CHURCH
Serving: Fruits Of Serving

Foundation: You're serving or lack thereof yields certain returns in your life

I. Serving yields fulfillment-*Jn4:30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. 31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. 33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

- A. For both the inner man and outer man there is the potential to be full or empty-You can be satisfied and full in your inner man and you can be unsatisfied and empty in your inner man
 - 1. Jesus hadn't eaten naturally, but He had eaten some other way-They are talking about natural food, Jesus isn't
 - 2. Meat-That which is eaten, food; The soul's food; That which nourishes, feeds and adds substance to the soul; That which delights and truly satisfies the mind; Soul satisfaction; That which delights the soul
 - 3. There is something that feeds you and satisfies you on the inside, in your inner man-There is something that fills the outer man and something that fills the inner man
- B. Fulfillment inside comes from doing what God sent you to do and being busy with His work-Nothing else satisfies
 - 1. Confront this truth-I will not be fulfilled apart from doing what God sent me to do and being busy with His work
 - 2. The meat is real, being full is real-As Jesus did what the Father sent him to do, it was literally filling him up inside
 - 3. Salvation alone won't produce fulfillment, relationship with God alone won't produces fulfillment-Those are part of it but if doing the will of the one who sent him satisfied Jesus inside, you won't be satisfied a different way than him
 - 4. People who look for fulfillment in other things will be unsatisfied-Family, job, worldly success, materialism, spouse
- C. Serving in the church God has called you to is a big part of the work He sent you to do -When you serve there you are doing what God sent you to do and you are busy with His work
 - 1. God told us to serve one another (this is His work) and so you won't be fulfilled apart from this-*Gal5:13-For, brethren, you have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another*
 - 2. The local church affords you the opportunity to serve other believers and to be busy with God's work
 - 3. Your happiness is connected to your serving-*Jn13:14-If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them*
 - a. It's about serving one another-It's not about feet washing
 - b. If you don't know and do these things will you be happy anyway?-The answer is no

II. Serving yields honor

- A. God honoring you is connected to you serving Him-*Jn12:25-He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him my Father will honor; 1Sm2:30-For them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed*
- B. When we are serving God we are honoring Him
 - 1. To honor God is to value Him and His things-When you value God and His things you invest your life into them- Serving is investing time, energy and resources into His things
 - 2. If you aren't serving Him, you aren't honoring Him-If you have little to no time for Him and His things this is dishonor
- C. How does God honor those that honor Him (by serving Him)?
 - 1. God honors us by allowing us to partake of His precious things-*1Sam2:27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? 29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?30 Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*
 - a. God honored them by choosing them, using them and allowing them to handle His precious things-When God allows you to partake of His presence, revelation of His Word, the anointing, assignment He's honoring you
 - b. He honored them because they honored Him-*Mal2:5-My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me and was afraid before my name*
 - c. God will not honor those who do not honor Him-Be it far from me; That's strong language
 - d. For God to honor those that dishonor Him doesn't exemplify His grace, it finances their dishonor

2. God honors us with blessing (protection, prosperity, victory)-Ps91:15-He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with Him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor (make glorious, rich) him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation (victory, prosperity, welfare)
 - a. Being blessed, walking in protection, prosperity, victory that's God's honoring you-But who does God honor?
- D. Blessing without Honor-This is to teach that God wants to bless you apart from teaching you must honor Him to walk in His blessing; God wants to bless you, prosper you and give you the desires of your heart – That's incomplete; We believe that, but that only comes to those to whose lives are consumed with God and His things
 1. Honor unlocks blessing-God and His things are the priority in your life; You do whatever He says and go wherever He says go; Inside that life of honor you will enjoy God's blessing beyond measure-Ps37:4-Delight yourself in the Lord; and he shall give you the desires of your heart; Ps40:8-I delight to do your will O, my God
 2. Many expect to be honored by God while they have little to no honor for God-Many have no time for God and want to run their own lives and yet they expect and even think they deserve His blessing; They want to get close enough to God to get what they want and are offended at the thought have having to do anything to enjoy God's blessing
 3. To many, God's things are a weariness and yet they want God to be gracious to them-Mal1:6-A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? 7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. 8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts. 9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the Lord of hosts. 10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. 11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts. 12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the Lord is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. 13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord.
 - a. God's things were a inconvenience to them-Mal1:13-CSB-Nuisance; NIV-Burden; NCV-We're tired of doing this
 - b. They expect God's blessing while they demonstrate dishonor-Mal1:9-TLB-God have mercy on us, you recite; God be gracious to us! But when you bring that kind of gift, why should he show you any favor at all

III. Serving yields rewards

- A. There are rewards in Heaven for what you do on the Earth-Re22:12-And behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be; 1Co3:14-If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive reward; 2Co5:10-For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether good or bad; Co3:23-Whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ. But he that does wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done and there is no respect of persons
 1. When is the last time you've thought seriously about your reward-Many think about prestige in the Earth and the honor of men-Jn8:50-I seek not my own glory; 5:41-I receive not honor from men; GNB-Not looking for human praise
- B. We need to realize how brief our life is-Js4:14-For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away; Ps90:12-TLB-Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should; Ps39:5-6-TLB-Help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more. My whole lifetime is but a moment to you
 1. You're not going to live here forever-Many spend their time down here like they have an unlimited amount
 2. Wise people realize this is going to end at some point-Ecc17:2-TL-For you are going to die, and it is a good time to think about it while there is still time 4 Yes, a wise men thinks much of death, while the fool thinks only of having a good time now
- C. Spend the most time on the things that matter the most to God-A wise man invests MUCH into what matters the MOST, while a fool invests MUCH into what matters LITTLE
 1. What I am doing with my time-Only what you do for Him will here will matter there-Pr4:26-Ponder the path of thy feet
 2. Don't have to be tormented about what you should do with your time here
 - a. Enjoy your life-Ecc5:18-Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he takes under the sun all the days of his life, which God gives Him; for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God has given riches and wealth and have give in power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God
 - b. Be busied with His business-Ecc12:13-Now everything has been heard. Here is my final advice: Honor God and obey his commands. This is the most important thing you can do