

Embracing Servanthood

by Buddy Trevino

This sermon emphasizes the importance of having a servant's heart, focusing on the humility, willingness to serve, and the challenges faced in embracing servanthood. It contrasts the worldly desire for recognition and success with the biblical call to be a servant, highlighting the need to find joy in serving others and ultimately glorifying God through selfless actions.

Duration: 1:12:43

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8, Philippians 2:7, Matthew 20:16, 1 Peter 1:3, Luke 9:23

Topics: "Servanthood", "Humility in Service"

Description

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Transcript

Good morning. I'm grateful to be here. I just want to talk.

Okay, I have a really good topic this morning. It's not my topic, but it's something I think about a lot and challenges me a lot and something I long to grow in. It has to do with the heart of a servant or a perfect servant's heart.

I think that in the days that we live in, it's really a foreign concept. I mean, it's something that we can grasp, but it's not something that we see before us every day, whereas it would have been more tangible or prevalent in times past, like that there would actually be this a person whose job it is to serve another person or other people, and he's a low guy. And just the difference between somebody who is served and somebody who's One of the closest things we have to that these days is employee and employer, and that's not really the same.

There's some similarities, but here we have something that's the core of our religion, our purpose, our goal, this model that we have from God that we're supposed to walk in, and it's not really readily tangible for us. It's not something that we see all the time. It's something we have to kind of conjure up.

So I'm gonna try to conjure up a little bit. I feel like I do for myself. I try to do for myself and remind myself that I'm a servant.

I've taken on the role of a servant, and not to be surprised or discouraged when I'm living the life of a servant and I'm faced with the things that servants are faced with. And even more than that, I would I'd hope that our desire to be a servant would be kindled, that we would want to embrace this really lowly type of life. Not just accept it because that's the way it is, but to long for it and to rejoice when we recognize that we are walking in it.

It's totally backward from the way the world is and what we're taught in the world, the world that we're brought up in, and even our own flesh. Obviously the goal in life is not to be a servant. The goal is to be a boss.

We see it in the Old Testament. One of the blessings God says is, you're not going to be a servant. You're going to be a boss.

That's the thing to be. You want to be on the top, not on the bottom. Temporally speaking, carnally speaking.

When you're the boss, it's easy. The servants do the work. The servants take care of you.

You can make a mess and you don't have to clean it up. Somebody else does that. You can spill something, somebody else cleans it up.

You don't have to worry about that. You sit down and eat. Somebody else made the food.

This is the goal. This is what we want. In the world, if you tell somebody, what do you do? What's your profession? Well, you want to say, oh, I own a company.

I run a company. You don't want to say, oh, I pull weeds. I'm a servant.

Like, come on, go to college, make something of yourself, become a boss. Whereas in this kingdom that we live in, even leaders are the servants. In Timothy there it says, if you desire the office of a bishop, you desire a good thing.

It's a good thing to want to be a bishop. And this is one of the ways I think it gets convoluted because in this idea of what we have Christianity today, the guys on top are bosses. They got their own parking space.

They got their own office. They drive the nice cars. They got the nice houses.

They're bishops. Shouldn't they have the best? Whereas I think what's taught in the scriptures and the scriptural example that we have is that the guys on top are the guys getting beat up and stoned and burnt and they're hungry and they're cold. And they're at the bottom.

To be a Christian leader is to be a servant and pour your life out. Leadership is a burden, not a place of being served. A Christian's highest priority and greatest ambition and chiefest desire is to be pleasing to the Lord.

That all that we do would please Him and give Him pleasure. That He'd look down upon us and be glad for the decisions that we're making. What we're putting our hands to.

The words that are coming out of our mouth. The principle of being a servant. He's the Lord and we are living for the pleasure of our Lord.

That's what we expend our energy in is that He would have pleasure. We can say that in general it's to please the Lord. That specifically refers to the Lord Jehovah.

But then it applies temporally as well. That's kind of what I my goal or my desire. What I would want to focus on.

What I would want us to... What I try to exercise myself in specifically and what I would hope this would challenge us all to focus on. For children to recognize that their parents are their lords or are their masters. And that we would... Whoever... If you find yourself in the position of a child, that your goal would be to please your parents.

As a wife, you know, God did this thing. He made a man and then he said, this guy needs a helper. He made her.

If you're a woman, you were made to be a helper for a man. Then it all kind of turns around. This guy's the man who's the parent and the one who's been given a help.

It's his job to be a helper for everybody else. It's his job to lay down his life for his family. For his wife and for his family.

And then for all of us, whether we're a child or a wife or a father, a single man, whoever we are. If we would serve Christ, then we're to be servants to the church and to our fellow man. Then it all kind of turns around again.

Because all of the ways that a child serves his parents and a wife serves her husband. Men serve their wives and families. Then all of us are serving the church and each other.

This is our service to the Lord. It's not some lofty, just invisible feeling of devotion. Our service to God is practically worked out in how we serve whoever our Lord is in whatever position that we're in.

Like our Lord is our boss. It could be your employer, your landlord. We show our service to the Lord by how we serve whoever our carnal Lord is in whatever situation that we're in.

A servant's heart finds pleasure and fulfillment in being spent for the benefit of others. The carnal heart, the natural heart, wants to be recognized. Wants to be acknowledged.

Wants to be rewarded for his talents, his labors, his sacrifices. I'm not just going to do this for free. I mean, I want to get paid.

If I'm not going to get paid, I at least want everybody to know that I'm the one who invented this. I'm the one who thought of this. I'm the one who made this possible.

If you don't get that, somebody's talking about something that's being done and they're not mentioning that this was your idea or you're the one who... I don't know if you guys are like that. I mean, I've at different times in my life felt myself longing. Like, is he going to say that? Is he going to mention me? Like, I was part of this? Like, it longs for that.

But a servant doesn't. The perfect servant heart doesn't do that. It's over all that.

Jesus teaches us... I appreciate what Walter read this morning. Jesus teaches that we are blessed when we're wronged and that we should rejoice when we're wrongfully abused. This is totally backwards.

A servant isn't eager for temporal pay or recognition, a servant of God, but rather for the glorification of his master. I saw a movie a long time ago and it was depicted like back in the Civil War slave days and there was a scene that always stood out to me that there was like these slaves were all going to do some work and they were saying how good a job they were going to do and they were going to make their master look real good. And I just thought, you know, what? Like, I would just have this idea that like slaves would just be like out there begrudging how they're being put to work for somebody else.

But he was just... in this movie it was depicted and it's I don't know if that's how it really was in the slave days but this this concept just like stuck out to me like wow this guy is just like I'm gonna make the master... we're gonna make the master look real good. He said we're gonna work really hard and everybody's gonna think our master is really good. And that should be that should be our goal and it's it's not what we're taught and it's not what what our flesh wants.

It's something... it's something unnatural so that the flesh would like grudge... begrudge that his that his master is being glorified for the work that he did. And yet for us this is our goal. Our goal would be that God would be glorified.

If we are a light to this world it make it makes God look good. If we have changed in our in our lives to be better people, if we are people of peace, if we are people of character and ethic, it makes him look... it makes him look good. And if we're not then it makes it makes our religion look vain.

It makes it makes him look bad. If if you see my children bickering and being selfish it makes me look bad. You think boy buddy's not doing a really good job.

But if my boys if my children are peaceful and loving and patient and servants it makes me it makes me... I mean they look good but really it makes me look good. So it's this it's this low place. It's a place of being despised and we long to recognize that when I'm in this place that this is this is success.

This is this thing Jesus talked about. Rejoice when this really bad stuff happens to you because this is it. This is the goal.

You made it. You're doing it. When people... when you when you're doing good and suffering for it this that's that's what you're going for.

It should be what we're going for. It shouldn't be something we're displeased about. Just real quick in case maybe for some of you younger people in case you didn't in case you didn't know when you work really hard with your muscles your muscles get sore.

You guys ever work real hard and your muscles get sore? It means you you overworked them and what happens when you do this is that they get damaged and then and then they heal when it takes a few days and they heal when they heal back you'll be stronger. Your muscles will get bigger and some people figured this out and they wanted to have big muscles and so instead of working they go to places called gyms and they and they pick up these weights and overwork their muscles so that their muscles will get sore and then their muscles get bigger. That's what they want is big muscles but they don't really they

don't want to work.

They just want to push a bunch of heavy stuff around but but those guys that the pain is their goal. They they don't sit there being like oh man that hurts so bad like they went to the gym to do that. They wanted to to tax their muscles.

Their goal is to have big muscles and it's a similar concept in James. Walter read it. My brethren counted all joy when you fall into diverse temptations knowing this the trying of your faith faith work is patience.

Let patience have her perfect work that you may be perfect and entire wanting nothing. When when we're tried and we're forced to exercise our patience it's like it's like a it's like a weight and and the more we do it and the harder that something is and and and if we're able to maintain our patience will get stronger and will become even more patient even more perfect and in all of these areas. When it'd be like when we decided to follow Jesus it's like deciding that that that was your goal.

You didn't want big muscles. You wanted the fruits of the Spirit and they come through trials and things that try our patience and that's when it's happening like you're in you came here for this this is what this is what we signed up for. So it'd be the the opposite of thinking of the the servants who worked for the penny who bore the heat of the day worked all day long and at the end of the day some guys got hired on they got the same pay but they hardly worked I think it says they worked one hour and those guys this is that this is that bad thing and we want to be careful this doesn't rise up in us it's like hey wait I worked way harder than them how am I only like this is the flesh keeps track of how much work I'm doing and how much work the other guys doing and I should be getting paid more or at least some acknowledgement or something where whereas the the heart that he should have had was oh look like the master found some guys even at the last hour we're gonna get so much work done like the goal is the master's garden or but what whatever it was that the master had there like those guys that worked in early should have looked up at the last hour and and been like oh good like oh the masters gonna get so much work done similarly the the prodigal son's brother he had he had this attitude like this guy's getting a party and he wasted all your money I've been here being faithful and what do I get whereas he should have said like oh look how great what a great thing that's happened he should be pleased for his father and and for his family a servant's heart is is glad that that the master would profit he's he's not he's not mad that somebody else's is profiting off of his labor like it's it's it's a then we find in the world like that we would be glad that our labors would profit someone else and we don't need rec we don't need recognition we don't need pay somebody else and this is again this applies to this applies to the Lord it's for it's the our lives are spent up for his glory but then I don't want to lose sight like I'm hoping that every every son every wife every every man would be recognizing that that this is our life is to be to be spent up to be used up for somebody else to receive glory for someone else to profit second Timothy 2 verse 4 no man that wreath entangleth himself with the affairs of this life that he may please him who has chosen him to be a soldier our our goal is that we'd be pleasing to him I think this is what Jesus means when he says who whosoever finds his life will lose it like if you if you if you go on in the way of this world and find this life of a boss who who has servants you you missed it but if you lose your life if you if you abandon the success of this world you'll find some there'll be an there'll be some true success we in order to follow God and to be to find our life in him we lose this life on earth we shouldn't be desiring credit you hear it and young people especially so I want to challenge any little person and then middle people make middle-aged people make sure we're getting out of this and old people this these things should be long gone and let's oh boy if we recognize these things within ourselves this is way past due but the the tendency to to something good is happening to hey you know that was that was my idea I'm the one who thought of that make sure people know that was your idea yeah I'm the one

who did it I built all that I'm the what like somebody else is getting credit and everybody else is reaping the benefit I want you to know I'm hey it was me um that did that these are um I think one of the things Paul's talking about when he says when I was a child I thought as a child but I have put those things away I don't need those those things I remember as a youth and even as a young man and not to say like it wouldn't even still creep up in my life now I I remember as a young man thinking at different times of my parents you know I do I do more I do more work around here than they do it's just such a wicked thought different times I've had jobs where somebody teach teaches me a skill and then I and then I do this thing and then they they get paid a bunch of money and I get paid a little bit of money and I'm looking back and I'm like wait I'm the one who did most I did almost all the work that guy just kind of gave me the tools and showed me what to do and got the job but I'm the one who did it it's just it's this it's this thing in us that that that that has a tendency toward that and we a servant doesn't really do that a servant is just like okay what's what's the next job I can do to make my boss a bunch of money if we can really get a whole like these things I'm saying are should sound foolish and they this is the cross this is this is foolish thinking but but it's um but it is it is the truth and and we can have faith that it is it is it is proper and it is good and it is right these are the teachings of our Lord but this concept is there like in the things that Walter read this morning these these things that Jesus taught these concepts are all I'm just trying to kind of elaborate maybe on this this principle that he continually brings forth I think of that I've seen I've seen nature videos where ants are maybe trying to get across something I think it's answer some kind of bug maybe it's a special kind of ant and the ants in front just start grabbing on to each other and they grab on to each other and they grab on to each other and finally somebody makes it across to the other side and then they and all these ants down at the bottom are literally becoming a bridge for and then and they're the other answer I mean there's they they have a goal and that goal is to get food from here to there or to get the colony from here to there and these ants might die and they're not even thinking of there they're thinking of the bigger goal the bigger picture the the hive or the Queen or the the food for this winter I don't know but I mean they're just like the they're just glad to be spent up I got a cup out of the bag of cups over there this morning there's this thing I guess maybe I learned it as a waiter or something but like if you um if you have a bunch of stacks stacked up on top of each other say this is the open end where you put something this is the bottom all like this if you if you take one off of it like this one's getting dust on the inside of it and then when you take that one out you're gonna put your beverage in there and it's gonna have a little bit of dust take it out now some does next person's gonna get it and they're gonna have a little dust in their beverage but if you turn it the other way and somebody pulls it off they're getting the fresh cup and the one at the bottom just keeps getting dustier and dustier and dustier and but everybody else so that that that cup is sacrificing itself so that so that all the other cups can be clean it's it's a restaurant trick but but we should our hearts should be longing to be what a blessing what a privilege if we're if we're the ant clinging to other ants taxing our muscles getting our head stepped on well while the rest the rest are being able to fulfill fulfill the goal with there that this some guy stepping on my head he's carrying food over to the hive I'm not sure what you call it the ant hill everybody's like oh look the ant brought a bunch of food and saying his name he look what a big piece he brought and like we got our head stepped on over here I mean and the I'll talk more about it in a minute but the the crux of our faith is that is that just to continue with this illustration like those ants over here that are praising the one ant who brought all the food and you could be sitting there getting your head stepped on for the good of the of the ant hill wondering where your recognition is and the crux of our faith is that is it's there though the one who true recognition comes from he sees and he cares and those guys over there singing the praises of this the ant who brought the food to the hive like that's not what it's about that that's not the goal that guy hasn't obtained like the the thing we need to really get a hold of is like the he sees and there will be there will be a time when when he will give rewards there

are there are men I know and it's just imaginations but there's men I know who by by their reputation my experience with them in my life I just I just I have this idea there's um there's a couple of young men that I know of and I've never seen this happen but but based on everything else I've seen in their life I have this imagination they're at home there with their family they've got things to do things they would like to do things they've been doing all day I just imagine they've been working all day they're hoping to get to and then and then somebody says to them hey and can you do such-and-such can you do this now and I just imagine them saying I sure can I should not like oh I was really like I've been working all day and something I was really hoping to get to and do you think somebody else could do it I just I just have this imagination in my heart these managers say I sure can as soon as I'm done with this I'll put that next on my list I've got a couple of things but and after that I sure I sure will and if you're a young man you should be wondering if I'm talking about you and I hoping that I am and if not working toward that that men men would think such things of you I've had to work with people and and just by their reputations like there's been times I've worked with multiple people and something needs done and I and I tend to ask this guy here because I just I just have learned that whenever I ask this guy he's kind of like he'll do it but man he makes you feel like you're putting a burden on him or something this other guy just like he jumps right to it and we just we don't want to be this this guy over here I I remember one time I I needed some information on a piece of paper I was living I was living somewhere where multiple people lived and I this is back in the days of real telephones and I and people being helpless about stuff and I was far away from the place where this information was on this piece of paper and I and I called the house and somebody was there and they answered and I was I was grateful I'm gonna get this information I said hey can you go I need your help I'm way far away and I need this information and I need it now can you help me there's a if you if you go look I don't know exactly where it is but if you go look I know it's there if you look and I don't remember the details but something like on my desk there's some papers there should be a yellow piece of paper it's kind of this size it and it's got some scribbles on it and something and they're like yeah I guess hang on okay and I'm waiting and I'm waiting yeah I didn't see it I'm like hey yeah I am helpless here like I know it's there if you could please just look a little bit harder oh okay just oh man I just I mean I was just like couldn't this person realize like they they could be my savior right now they're just like what uh they should be just like oh what I can help this guy like this guy really needs something I can be the one to help him but this person just kind of blew it then there was another time I had I'd gone try to leave out too I don't want to give too many details but I was going somewhere and I had left this thing behind I cared about guitars back then and building and repairing guitars and I had this busted guitar that I'd left behind and then I got somewhere way far away and changed my mind that I that I wanted part of this guitar and I and I was like oh what a I can't just like so maybe I could call back and have somebody no they'd have somebody would have to cut that off put it in a box go to the mail post office and send it to me I can't ask anybody to do that or that would be just too much people would be burdened nobody would and this this guy popped up in my mind and I just I just knew if I called him and told him this job that I wanted done he would be like oh yeah I'll do it I'll just yeah okay how do you want me to cut it okay what do you mean okay yeah I'll try to get that done I just like I hadn't asked him but I knew he was the kind of guy that would do that like he just it I knew it would just delight him to to know that I was helpless somewhere and he was able to to do something to really help me out and that's I want to be that guy I I would hope that if somebody needed something they'd be like if I called buddy he I know buddy would be so glad to whatever it is get up go pay I mean I I would hope to not just have that reputation but but but to have that heart this this is basic this is basic Christianity this is a principle that is as at the the foundation of all of Jesus teachings this is what it means this this is the cross that we take Jesus he suffered this thing I mean Jesus taking up his cross was he was that aunt who I mean I to fit the illustration he would been the aunt

that was getting despised so that others could be could have success this is this is the thing this concept is is foolishness to the world it's a it's a stumbling block to those who don't understand the nature of God it was a stumbling block to the Jews because they thought God's people should be the greatest people and here comes this guy saying if you want to serve God you're going to be low that was a stumbling block to them they could get it but some people hear these things that I'm describing and and and they'll turn away reject these things however there was those who have years to hear they'll hear his voice and they recognize this is an unmatched treasure worthy of sacrificing all that we have even our even our lives there should be this this can how these concepts sound to you will determine what kind of person that you are do these things that I'm saying sound beautiful to you like like is there is there something in your heart that's like yes I want to be that's what I want to be I want to be that lowly end I want to be I want to be that or does if it sounds if it doesn't sound appealing to you like that that that hope I'm not hope it's not too lofty for me to say to such say such thing but I think I'm speaking right now the the Word of God that these are his words to us these are these are his teachings these these are his principles these are this is his message to you and if and and you can determine whether or not your sheep you're his sheep but if you can you hear God's voice in these things does that does that sound like yes yes Lord that that that these are the these oh that's beautiful when I when we hear these things there should be something in us that says oh that's that's beautiful I I want to be a partaker of that I I want to be a partaker of this also I want to be a part of that I want to be that that lowly guy that that makes it so that others can them yes does it seem grievous does it does it seem unfair I mean who who wants to be a talented hard-working devoted servant that the masters their skills and brings great profit to their master and then becomes and then is unacknowledged unrecognized and unrewarded and on top of that falsely accused of being unfaithful or of not being profitable nobody wants that but but that's that's what he did it's what he does every day and it's what we must do if we would be his children why should we think that we should be treated any better if we could just lay hold of this attitude like I'm just I'm just a servant if there if there was such a thing as servant ants and leader ants you know somebody would say okay servant ants do your thing make your make your human bridge or your ant bridge and then and then the leaders can walk across but the servant they would know that that's what they were in for that that was their job they were servants and they don't they don't deserve any better because that's their place and this is the the mindset or the heart for us to wrap ourselves wrap our minds around let to embrace or troubled when when when we find ourselves down low that that's what we are we're we're servants that's we are to be spent what why should I why should I get any better after after what I've done after what I've cost him and I just say that the enemy the devil he goes around this world the church goes around in our homes and he whispers in our ear you deserve better than this you should have gotten acknowledged for that why why is it always you that gets asked to do these things why do you always get the hard stuff why you get paid more or more that's that's the enemy if you if you hear that voice whether it's the flesh whether it's the devil whether it's the world that it's it's the enemy that tries to make us think that I'll say it later but in Philippians chapter 2 it says let nothing be done through strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others let this mind be in you which was also in Christ being in the form of God thought it not robber thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation took upon him the form of a sir and was made in the likeness of men in fact of the cross wherefore God also has highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the world can't accept these principles they seem wrong and they they're right like I think one of the principles of the old covenant and the new covenant is the old the old covenant kind of

established laws and rules and the New Testament comes along and hear me out kind of breaks them not quite but the the old covenant teaches what teaches us what justice is I for I tooth for tooth like that's right but then the new covenant comes along and says but I say unto you and then he teaches us to suffer injustice he lays down a principle in the old and then and then he lays out a way teaches us a way to a way that doesn't quite follow it doesn't quite follow through with with with what he taught but it uses the principles but teaches us a new way maybe somebody else can think of a better way to say that thing that I was I was trying to say that used to be instructed to kill witches and we don't kill witches anymore but witches are just as bad as the witchcraft is just as bad as it ever was like he was teaching he wanted to teach us from the beginning how bad that it is it's just as bad now as it was then but but we don't we don't execute the death penalty for for for witchcraft oh maybe another example is he taught us about this thing called an oath if you make an oath you got to keep it and then he says okay remember I taught you about oaths okay don't make those like we I mean we could say but you said those were he's like okay but remember I taught you how you treat an oath that's how I want you to treat when you say when you say yes remember how an oath was that's how you treat it just when you say yes just when you just say no remember oath it's that but first he had to teach us anyway so so if there is again in the Old Testament he taught this thing when you're blessed you're gonna be on top other people are gonna serve you you're gonna get the the head and not the tail the top and not the bottom something like that and these so these principles are still there we we do still we do still want to be the goal is still to be at the top and not the bottom but but where the top and the bottom are has has changed at least at least for now at least while we're here and the the big promise and the the the crux of all this thing is is what our faith is did was this man who he said he was did he have the authority to do these things like I'm describing to take the law and say okay but it's gonna be different now now you're gonna be at the bottom like wait does this guy have the right to be telling me something different than what Moses said like our faith is that he does have the authority and that those things he said are the things from God and we can embrace these things and and rejoice when he said to rejoice and to feel woe when he said to feel woe so the there's a sense in which the world or the Jews were were correct that these things are that these things are foolishness according to the to the here and now and that and that is why walking in them is glorious this is this is the thing like that that gets said sometime what what good is it if you if I'm gonna mess it up maybe somebody could help me but if you suffer well not what good is it but like there's things that are just they're just they're just the laws okay you suffer because you did wrong but you know there's nothing so I think it says if you suffer maybe suffer patiently after you've done something wrong there's no glory in it but if you did right and then you suffer there's glory in that I mean that's that's what he did that's what there's many reasons why God is glorious but that that's one of the reasons is because like we like like we read that God humbled himself God suffered just he didn't just kill everybody that would have hurt him he just he let men little little men slay him and that's it's a glorious thing he he's invested in this in this broken thing and and if he if any little bit of it that gets fixed and becomes better and and becomes like him is to his glory and so so this is where this is where real glory comes to be glorious one one of the elements of the of the false gospel that gets put out is um is this whole idea that somehow you become this thing called saved but you're still just as you're just still just as bad as you every as you ever were but God looks down and he sees you but because Christ is over you and it's this you're still bad and then there's this other thing called Christ that becomes over you and God looks down and he sees Christ and he just thinks you're glorious even though you're really not and the truth is what it those words might be true but it's not that he sees somebody else like it's you like you Christ needs to be in us and and then when God looks at us he'll see Christ if Christ is in us if we're doing the things that Christ does he'll and what it will actually be glorious and and God will will not be doing anything wrong when when he glories glorifies us because um because

because we we're worthy of it we did we did bring him glory we did bring him pleasure we we did conform ourselves and into these into new creatures I I remember this book about child raising and talking about our jobs our jobs as a parent is to teach our children to help our children to become worthwhile whether it's to be to develop skills or to develop work ethic and then and then they be and they and they know it they know that they're valuable they know that that they're hard workers they know that they've helped put food on the table or whatever better better their home in some way in it and in the in the book I think it talked about like encouraging them like hey you're you're you sure are a hard worker you sure are working hard now you you can't just you can't just tell a child who's lazy and doesn't want to help like oh you're sure a hard worker when they're really not but when a child when he knows that it's not just empty praise like there's there's something to that and this is how God is he he's not just gonna say say we're good when we're not it's his goal to make us good and and that if if we work with him and this thing he's doing is a success and we become better it gives him glory because he did it and it's this is this concept of when we receive a crown for our victory and we cast it at his feet he he did it but but he but he really did it if if we really win the race if we really endure these things with patience and have the fruit brought forth in us then we will win and he will have created a winner so the thing the thing that that makes the difference is um is our is our faith that that these things are temporal in the fact that he does see he does see what we're going through though he doesn't he doesn't remedy every wrong immediately he sees it and he is a rewarder knows those rewards are going to come later and that this is our faith we believe somebody could mock us look look but we know he sees and he will reward this is what our faith is and we endure it because we we believe we have faith that that's what it is what pleased what pleases him when we groan under our burdens of service it shows a lack of faith it says something like that it's something like he doesn't see or that he isn't good that he's allowing something that's not good but but when we suffer it patiently we're acknowledging okay I do believe he sees and I do believe he's in control and he's allowing this and he is and he's good but one of my greatest consolations in life he sees it's one of it in Hebrew that's one of his names I forget it but it's L something the God who sees the one who sees do you know it tail okay Oh Jaira people say Jaira maybe that's when he sees yeah so God's people live their life for their master whether it's your your your your home your family your wife your husband your your parents your boss your landlord the church like there's there's something above you that is your master and ultimately it is Jehovah and our lives what we do is we we give our lives for that which is above us knowing that it gives God pleasure knowing that it will it glorifies him and that these things that he's taught us that people who work hard should get paid more and people who do bad should suffer though we don't see them now it will get worked out he he sees he's not gonna leave anything untaken care of he's not gonna leave any work unrewarded we just need to be patient so this is uh this mindset is is at the beginning of the path the way that we walk in and it is crucial that I didn't realize that till I did this but you guys know what crucial means crucial means like it's of the utmost importance it's so important it's you have to have it and that which since anybody know the root word of that word crucial who said it cross Cruz la Cruz in Spanish la Cruz I'd be Latin yeah cross crucial it's it's essential the crosses it's it's it's like that if you say something's crucial you're saying that's as necessary as the cross this concept is not to be shirked or avoided it's not to be despised but but embraced we have to embrace it and learn to love it learn to I mean in the meantime we can try to remind ourselves okay he said I'm supposed to rejoice when this happens but our goal would be that that that's just what we do like we we were so anticipating and hoping for this and we've we've changed we've changed our mind to the point that we we just it's a victory it's like like a bodybuilder looking at his big muscles like oh I'm gonna be so patient look that God's gonna be so glorified we we can't skip this step we can't move on to other things like this this thing must it's it's at the beginning recognize the truth that's been that's put out by the world and not and not just by the world but what what I

would call false Christianity and that's that's oh that's this thing that like because because we know that there's glory coming eventually to walk in that now I'm a prince I'm a prince of the I'm the I'm the king's son I'm a prince and but there's a there's a story about it but there was a king who had a son and he he didn't have good character and so he sent him off to a place that to go be poor and and work hard and learn character and then he was then he was worthy and I think similarly like this it's a step that we can't that we can't skip we can't think of ourselves as princes and princesses but it's important that we don't skip ahead and that that's coming it is coming but but it's that should be the goal of that is to to be a consolation as we walk in servanthood and to really that it don't and it's not going to happen unless we do that unless we embrace servanthood and learn to walk in it and learn to walk in humility if we don't humble ourselves we won't be exalted we and so my my goal as I as I consider these things and I try to remind myself about these things and I try to recognize when when I hear the enemy whispering probably probably the most important time is when it when it comes up within my own heart that that I recognize it and and be at war against it just be just be on the lookout and be ready to recognize any any part of me that it's just not all about God's glory or the benefit or profit of for me it would be for my wife and for my my home for every young I'll just for every young man it would be you know that your your family would profit you that your parents would profit for wives it would be that your husband would be would be helped and and look good in the gates as the King James I'm not exactly sure what that means but you want your husband to look good in the gates and and when when the husband is looks good in the gates that then the children have succeeded and the wife has succeeded and then and and vice versa you know especially I can think like when when if my children grow up with with the servants of God with with character and patience then I then I've succeeded and ultimately it's it's it would all be God's God's success we should all be putting putting forth our efforts laying down our lives pouring ourselves out for the success of his cause for his his glory yeah I just want to say amen and I really really appreciate that I think I think it's this this topic is so crucial it just can't be can't be drilled in us too hard you know I appreciate the many examples I just thought I think I think Jesus maybe summed it all up when he said he that seeks to save his life will lose it he that seeks or he that loses his life for my sake will find it and and how different that is if you go to schools and public education places and and there's all this there's all this teaching and all this talk about finding yourself about building up self-esteem about finding who you are in this world and it's it's just so different it's so upside down I think it's why why the early church was rightly accused of they were accused of turning the world upside down it it was obvious to the world that this this thing is reversed from what what we know and so yeah I just some of the things I thought of as you were going through the message you you ended up talking about later or reading later like how Jesus made himself a no reputation there in Philippians and I was I was I was really challenged with just like look thinking back thinking about my life when it comes to like you know can somebody call me and ask something from me and do I am I known as a person who would be you know right there and willing and they would know I'm willing not not just I guess you know I I just I'm afraid I fall pretty pretty short in that I know I fall short in that when it comes to you know my wife and children asking things I'm sure I failed brothers in that I'm really challenged by that but one more thought I had just something you said I can't even just remember exactly what I guess it was just about how how much people want recognition for the good things they do and how unfair it seems to people when when you know somebody doesn't acknowledge them for something I was just I heard about I was reminded last evening about the Trump rally in Tulsa and it kind of made me wish I or think we should have gone out there to preach maybe I don't know if it would have been good or not but because it was on my mind I I listened to a small portion of it as as Donald Trump was talking and and there was this one part where he he was railing on on the media and and on CNN and accusing them of fake news and and and he was talking about how just I guess not too long ago somewhere he was somewhere I think

West Point he gave a speech I don't know what all it was about or what what all the doings was even about but then like after after this long doings he he walked down off of a ramp kind of slowly or something and and CNN focused on that like some something's wrong with his health and and they're at this rally he was he was just railing on them like here I I gave one of the best speeches I ever gave and guess what they cover you know they cover that I didn't walk down the ramp fast enough it's so unfair and I just that's that's the world that's that's our flesh too and yeah I just really I'm challenged in to to not only be a servant but really have a servant heart you know not just to fake that kind of talk but to just to really be like where we're at the end of everything I could just say I am an unworthy servant I have only done what it's my duty to do yeah praise God yeah thanks brother I really appreciated that it made me think about Isaiah and a verse in Isaiah just read it here 6 8 also I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall I send and who will go for us then I said here I am send me just thought about the heart of a servant just so willing to serve I was really encouraged by the message and convicted a lot of things in my own heart I think I need to really focus on one thought that stand out to me as Duane was speaking there was how Christians aren't really recognized very much or we can really be pressing in to do good things and nobody's noticing that might be discouraging if you look at it in a temporal sense but if you look at it in the eternal sense it doesn't really matter it's just a short time down here that nobody might see what you actually do but but it will be recognized on the day of judgment it will be recognized by God it will be glorified he will be glorified in you through you so even even though people aren't recognized now they will be recognized one day for their service and that's encouraging to focus on that also another verse I thought about when you're sharing was how it says I couldn't find it but it says if if need be you are in many your intent is it something like if need be you're in temptation I can't think of exactly anyways it sometimes temptation and trials the point I was trying to bring across was it's needful it really is needful it's important to go through those hardships and those hard hard times so that we can be we can become stronger we can become better even though it's it's painful like the muscles I think there's a saying no pain no gain in the gym I just really appreciated the message and I'm just really encouraged I want to try harder to be that guy thank you amen to the message brother buddy and Dwayne's comments and you guys tales I guess one of the verse paraphrase it wasn't the one you were looking for but when Paul was acting like a fool and boasting he said I labored more than all the rest but not me but the grace of God within me and so like you were talking about God he'll give you the grace it was the grace and like brother Dwayne said the way up is down that's the way up is down is to be a servant and I remember someone he's dead now but Leonard Bernstein was a symphony orchestra director way back in the 50s and 60s a great conductor and they asked him what was the more difficult position to play as you know for musicians because he was the thing what's the most difficult oh what's the instrument for a musician to play or what the part and his comment was second fiddle second fiddle everyone no one wants to be second fiddle like that and Jesus said that it's not my will it's my father's will and likewise we're doing the same but I get one criticism against you brother that you lack enthusiasm you just don't have that enthusiasm and given this lesson no you're very enthusiastic I appreciate appreciate it there and I throw one comment that has absolutely nothing to do with the lesson but I'll get feedback I'm sure I'll get feedback after it but yesterday I didn't have to work this week and then and so I did on the computer or the smartphone you know what would I do it out of smartphone right the smartphone I I googled up so-called man second man to walk in the moon Buzz Buzz Aldrin and so in Buzz Aldrin the second man to walk in the moon he did something up there the first man to walk in the moon Neil Armstrong I thought wasted taxpayers money of course that's what they stopped the things they could waste the taxpayers money but he took a golf ball and he took a he hit the golf ball in the moon it was the furthest shot to that one because gravity is nothing and such a ridiculous thing and Neil Armstrong he's dead but but Buzz Aldrin the second man to walk in the moon he did it like nine minutes

after him NASA has tried and tried to hide this thing but you can get it you can get it on there it's in there it's in there he did it Buzz Aldrin was in Presbyterian minister and on the moon he took chalice and wine with him and on Sunday he took the Sacrament of Communion on the moon even though he was he was a fighter pilot in Korea and he punched a reporter later on but on the moon for what it's worth I know who gets a Buzz Aldrin he said I wanted to take the Sacrament of Communion on the moon and he took for one minute he took a chalice and then and it's not and NASA they admit it but they can't stand it I know that has nothing to do with your great lesson but it's just something that we're going to take communion the Lord be magnified yeah I appreciate it what a scriptures that were shared in the opening and also thankful for the message on being a servant it was this is this is a challenge for us to be a servant and it was pointed out in so many different good ways that I just really appreciate it as challenging the thought about if we don't really like to be a servant and we don't really like when things go hard that there's a lack of faith that would indicate a lack of faith that's I guess I and thinking it over I I think that is true if we don't believe in the Lord we don't believe that God is going to take care of us that we don't believe that he he is the all and the ultimate and he will reward those of us that diligently seek him then it does make sense it's a lack of faith if we if we find it difficult to difficult to appreciate the hard things of like building muscles or that we persevere and that we continue and we would press on and it's a lack of faith we don't we actually end up we actually end up being a an eyesore to God or a can't think of the right word but we're not valuable to God if if we we don't trust him in all things and this is something I find a challenge in my own life also the idea that kind of struck a chord in my heart my mind that if somebody else takes we had an idea and somebody else kind of takes it I I would have to say I think about it for sure I don't know that means I don't have enough faith or what but I need to grow a little bit more that I don't mind if somebody else takes my honor and my my whatever my ideas or just take them away and I just something something that I can at least think about it for sure I'm not sure how do how well I do with it anyways I've been blessed and thankful and praise God I found the verse I just like to read it blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time wherein you greatly rejoice though now for a season if need be year in heaviness through many fold temptations that the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ I I Oh

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