

BLESS: Serve Consistently

(Mark 7:31-37)

Introduction.

“Thousands of books have been written on leadership, but few on servanthood. Everyone wants to lead, no one wantw to be a servant. We would rather be generals than privates. Een Christians want to be “servant-leaders,” not just plain servants. But to be like Jesus is to be a servant. That’s what he called himself.

Phillipians 2: 5-8 reads, “5) *Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, 6) who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. 7) Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, 8) He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.*”

The happiest people in the world are those that serve others, invest in others, give to others. They do not horde, they give away.

Contextualize this SERMON in the B.L.E.S.S. series

Contextualize Mark 7:31-37.

Now everybody knows that Jesus served people. He is our example. Mark 10:45 says, “*For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” (WEB) **The best way to understand serving is to see exactly how Jesus served.** Let’s take a look at one example in the book of Mark.

I. Proximity

Principle: *The most significant service you can perform is to the people God has placed in close proximity to you.*

A) God's Strategy (v. 31)

B) People to Serve (v. 32)

C) Specific Circumstances (v. 32)

God has placed you in your family, place you in your work place, and placed you in your neighborhood for a purpose – serve those in close proximity to you.

Here's the problem. Some times we make selfish decisions that take us from the very place we need to be.

Example – T. Clark

Almost without exception, the people we are to meant to serve will be in close proximity. Right around us! Who is that? Take a moment and let God bring someone to mind. Got it?

II. Privately (v. 33)

Principle: *Genuine servants serve for the joy of serving, not for the attention of others.*

A) Jesus perceived his situation

B) Jesus privately served him.

C) Jesus met the need.

III. Personally

Principle: *Serving others requires the servant to get personally involved.*

A) People have problems

B) Ministry is messy.

C) Caring is costly.

IV. Powerfully (v. 34-35)

Principle: *Serving is a spiritual act, therefore, you need spiritual power.*

- A) Supernatural strength (v. 34)
- B) Supernatural service (v. 35)
- C) Supernatural effect (v. 36-37)

Conclusion.

- A) Service creates credibility**
- B) Service builds bridges**
- C) Service demonstrates love**