

Following Jesus' Example of Service — Pastor John Stange

Good morning. It's great to see everybody this morning. So glad to be able to spend this time together with you this morning. I just had the privilege to teach a three-hour section of Biblical Perspectives, and I thought to myself, yeah, that's a fantastic class and a fantastic group. I thought to myself, feel compassion for these students. They just had to listen to me for three straight hours. And it's like, hey, what are we doing after class? Listening to him for another hour or so. Anyway, it's great to be able to spend this time together. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to just be able to look at God's word together. As you can see from the screens here, we're going to be talking about serving, and I just want to talk about this idea of showing up and serving. I'm going to read a brief portion of Scripture that there's three primary things I us to take from it. But let me read the Scripture, then I'm going to pray for us, and then I'm going to highlight some of these things. If you would, turn with me to Mark 10, and I'm going to start at verse 42.

Now, throughout our time together, I'm going to bring these Scriptures up on the screen as well, but we'll start just looking at our Bibles together. This is what it says in Mark 10, starting with verse 42. It tells us this. It says, "And Jesus called them to him." It's speaking of his disciples here. He calls them to him, and it says, "And He said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them, but it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

Let's pray together. Lord, thank you for the privilege to be able to look at this portion of Scripture together today. I'm grateful, Lord, that as we look at this, we have this idea of service being presented right before us. We see the words of your son, Jesus Christ, encouraging us to cultivate a mindset of service and just to have this as a pattern of our life and something that we would look at and say, I'm not above serving somebody else in the name of Jesus. Father, I thank you for giving us access to your word and giving us the opportunity to just be able to spend a few moments thinking about these things today. We thank you for everything that you teach us in your word, and we thank you for the privilege to be able to look at it together. We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now, when you look at a portion of Scripture like this, it's interesting to think about the context. In the context of what was taking place just before this, you have the disciples hanging out with Jesus, spending time with Jesus. They're thinking about, I think, at least in their context, they were thinking about the fact that Jesus was getting a lot of notoriety. People were starting to notice Jesus. They were probably starting to feel like a big deal as they would go different places and people would see Jesus and then see them hanging out with Jesus. That was something that was starting to factor into their mind. I think they were also starting to think, Hey, is this the promised Messiah? Is he the one that ultimately is going to overthrow Roman rule over Israel and allow us to maybe establish the prominence that we used to have back in the days of David, back in the days of Solomon?

They thought, You know what? We're the that he selected to hang out. He literally chose us to hang out with him. I think in their minds, just from a human standpoint, they were maybe starting to get a little ahead of themselves, and they started to think of themselves as maybe a little bit of a bigger deal than they ought to. When you look at the verses just prior to what we just read, you have these men starting to debate and think about where they're going to stack up in the Kingdom of God and where they get to sit next to Jesus and what roles they're going to have. They're debating this and maybe even cajoling each other a little bit about it, but also asking Jesus point blank, Hey, do you suppose maybe one of us could sit at your right-hand and the other at your left hand? And then Jesus responds with this portion of Scripture that we just read together. This idea where he starts emphasizing service and what service actually looks like. And there's a few things. There's three things right away that I just want to very, very quickly highlight from this passage before I segue our conversation into something that's more of an application of this.

But one of the things that you could see right away is that, first of all, there's a big difference between being a leader and a boss. A good leader is sacrificial, a boss is selfish. Again, look at verse 32, Jesus said this. It says, "Jesus called them to him and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lorded over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them." So he's giving them a picture of something they already know they don't like. One of the common things that was very popular among the Jewish people at the time to dislike was oppression that came from Roman rule. And so Jesus says, All right, you see how these guys utilize their role of leadership or how they utilize roles of leadership that are stewarded to them. And by the way, you could tell a lot about a person's character in a couple of ways. But one of the ways you could tell a lot about a person's character is give them authority and see what they do with it. You ever experience somebody that you think in the back of your mind, that person should never be trusted with authority ever again?

Well, Jesus was saying, you've seen how these Gentile rulers exercise their authority. They lord it over people. They boss people. That is not good leadership. There's a very big difference between being a leader and being a boss. A leader is somebody who says, All right, here's a hard thing. We're going to go do it, and they invite you to join them as they're doing it. They don't just say to you, You go do it. A boss will I tell you, you go do it and then you report back to me when you get the results. A good leader will say, Come join me in this exercise and we will do this together. They show you how to do it. They're oftentimes the first one to start getting their hands dirty, doing whatever it is. You have Jesus saying, Listen, you guys are arguing about leadership and you want to be ahead of this guy and you want to be ahead of this guy. He's saying, I'm telling you, don't have a mindset that resembles Gentile leadership and what Gentiles think leadership or authority should look like or how it should be exercised. He says, You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles, they lord it over them.

Basically, they look at the opportunity to lead and they say, I want this for myself, and I just want to make sure that somehow I'm always slightly ahead of you. And so Jesus says, Don't do that. They're great ones exercise authority over them. It's not a good example, but you see it all the

time. The way you guys are arguing and the way you guys are debating, or even the request that you're making of me, Jesus is implying here, are things that basically look like the mindset that governs Gentiles. One of the things Jesus brings up here right away is this idea there's a big difference between being a leader and a boss. He wants these men to be leaders. He doesn't want them to go around bossing people around. So he's saying, you got to learn something different about leadership than how it seems you're thinking about it.

But then he goes on to tell him something else. And he illustrates this, that greatness in the Kingdom of God is not measured as people expect. Now, why am I saying that? Well, look at what he says in verses 43 and 44 of Mark 10.

He says, "But it shall not be so among you. So he's saying, don't operate like the Gentiles that you see around you. He says, It shall not be so among you, but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all." Now, this is something that it's very obvious that they had a hard time when they tried to wrap their mind around it in other contexts. You particularly see this when Jesus offers to wash their feet later on. You have Peter rebel against that or revolt against that. And he says, All right, look, I don't want you to do that. That's beneath you. You are our rabbi. You are our leader. I don't want you washing my feet. That's a job reserved for the lowest person in a household, not someone that we're looking to for leadership. Jesus says, No, this is something that I'm going to do for you. Likewise, I want you to treat others with the same mindset, with the same heart attitude. Here you have Jesus prepping them for what life is actually going to look like. He says, Look, among you don't have the mindset of the Gentiles. Those that are great among the Kingdom of God need to have the mindset of a servant.

Now, it's interesting. Do you ever peruse Barnes & Noble and go through leadership sections and business sections and things like that? One of the things that I've noticed over the course of my life when I go into that bookstore is the emergence of servant leadership titles. It's actually become a little bit of a trend. When people release these things, I think they think they're being revolutionary. It's like, I've just had this epiphany. Good leadership looks a lot like service. By the way, everybody thinks leadership looks really glamorous until you actually try to lead people. Can you testify to that if you've ever worked in a camping context? Have you ever worked in a camping context or work with children or anything like that. Leadership looks really glamorous when you think that it's about calling the shots and when you discover that it's more about serving people, and it comes with a lot of arrows and a lot of criticism and a lot of discomfort and giving up your preferences for other people. You look at what Jesus says, and the whole time he's saying good leadership looks a lot like service more so than lording your authority over other people.

Jesus says, Look, this is how my kingdom operates. My kingdom is like this, whoever be great among you must be your servant, and whoever be first among you must be slave of all. Because you have several of the disciples saying, Hey, can I be at your right? Can I be at your left? Can I have authority that's higher than this guy? Can I have authority that's higher than this guy? He says, That's not the mindset I want you to cultivate. That's a worldly mindset. I don't

want that to be yours. I want you to have a servant mindset. Keep that in mind. Greatness in the Kingdom of God is not measured as people expect.

But then he says one other thing, and I want to tie these all together in just a moment. But the third thing he illustrates is this, that he's not asking you and me, Jesus is not asking you and me to do something he wasn't willing to do first. It says this in Mark 10:45, Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Isn't it fascinating when you think about Jesus coming to this Earth and doing all the things that he did as he atones for our sin, as he sets an example for us, as he teaches us things that we would not naturally understand, as he promises us and gives us the assurance of eternal life as we trust in him? All of these things, you look at this and it's like, all right, well, that's for my benefit, that's for my benefit, that's for my benefit. Did God need anything? Did Jesus need anything? Did he come to this Earth because he needed something? Sometimes I hear people say that Jesus came to this Earth because God needed our love, which is not true because God didn't need anything. He doesn't need anything. God has existed in a perfect relationship of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from all eternity. God has existed in perfect fellowship from all eternity. He didn't come to this earth because he needed something. He didn't need anything. He came to this Earth to be gracious. He came to this Earth to be merciful. He came to this Earth to extend love toward us and to give to us what we needed.

And so you have Jesus saying, Think about my mission. When you think about leadership, when you think about authority, when you think about service, he says, Think about what I've actually come to do. He says, For even the Son of Man, he's not asking them to do something he's not willing to do. That's leadership. That's good leadership. He says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." It's a beautiful thing that he says here.

So just to summarize the three things that Jesus brings up here, just for starters, there's a big difference between being a leader and a boss. I would encourage us to aim to be a leader, a servant leader. Greatness in the Kingdom of God is not measured as people expect. Greatness in the Kingdom of God is the idea of putting someone else above yourself and not trying to squish somebody down or lord something over somebody else. Jesus is not asking you and me to do something that he wasn't willing to do first. He did it first. He's the leader. He set the tone. He served us, met our greatest needs, and he's saying, Now do this.

That sounds wonderful. Probably, if you've grown up in the context of a church context or a household of faith or something like that, it would not surprise me to discover that somewhere along the line throughout the course of your life, somebody probably said to you, it's a good idea to spend some time serving other people. It's probably not something you haven't heard before. And it all sounds great as a platitude. But when we actually attempt it, it's a different thing. And I have to tell you, one of the things that I have found personally helpful, and maybe this would be something that you would find personally helpful as well, but I have found it helpful to put myself in positions where essentially I'm a nobody. I appreciated all the nice things that my son referenced, different things I've had the opportunity to be part of throughout the course of my

life. I find that that stuff, it's fun to think about that, but you have to be careful about that stuff because it could easily puff you up a little bit.

I think about that and I think, all right, it's helpful to purposely put yourself in a spot where you're nobody. Nobody knows you, nobody knows you. They don't know that you do in your day-to-day life. They don't know that you serve as a pastor. They don't know anything that you've ever attempted to do over the course of your days. Sometimes I look for things like that. A few years ago, I had an idea, and it was one of the weirdest ideas I've ever had. I presented this idea to my family, and they're like, this definitely classifies as one of the weirdest things that you have ever suggested. Now, to set up this weird idea, I do have to ask a question that requires some level of audience participation, and there is only one right answer. So if you say the wrong thing, you're just wrong, it's okay. We could be friends, but you may get it wrong. The question is this, what is the happiest place on Earth? Not Disney. I knew someone was going to say that. It's not Disney World, but nice try. Oh, wait, say it one more time. Knoebles. Knoebles. Does anyone know what Knoebles is? Is anyone familiar with Knoebles? Now, here's the thing. I'm running a risk in telling you about this if you didn't know.

Because if you don't know that this is the happiest place on Earth and you haven't been there, it's two and a half hours toward Central PA from here, two and a half hours toward Central PA. If you didn't know, now you're going to know, and now the crowds are going to swell even more because this is a lot of people to reveal this secret to at one time. But I trust you enough that if you decide to go there, I would like to hang out with you there. It is the happiest place on Earth. I have to tell you that on some of my saddest days and darkest days, my mind drifts to Knoebles. I think about the delicious food, I think about the fun rides. I think about, honestly, the enjoyable times that I've been able to spend with my wife and my children at Knoebles. Loved it. One of the saddest things in the world to me was the year 2020. I was sad for many reasons. Let's not talk too much about it, all right? We all went through that trauma together. We're on the other side of it now, everybody. Five years, high five.

But they couldn't open. And I look forward to that place opening all a year long. In fact, throughout the course of the winter months, I think about it way more than I ought to. I remember in 2020, they couldn't open for a while. Then they finally opened, but it was a weird season. Then 2021 was weird, too. They kept having a big problem. Their big problem was this, they couldn't find people to work there. I said to my family, I was like, This stinks. Our favorite place, they can't even open the whole thing because they can't find people that work there. Then I got an idea. Do you see where I'm going with this? I got an idea and I said, Okay, so I always take Monday off, and a lot of pastors take Monday off. Then I was thinking, I was like, I technically have Monday. I'm like, Oh, that place is two and a half hours away. So it's a five-hour round trip. But I was like, okay, whatever. I take Mondays off. What would it be like if I applied to work there? And then I was like, oh, wait a second. My daughter Julia worked at what's it called? A haircuttery. Not a haircuttery, but like a beauty shop. Place where the hair gets cut. What's the technical name? Beauty shop. Anyway, a salon. That's the word. Thank you. I got to rely on my wingman Daniel. They're not open on Mondays. So then I had this idea. I was like, Julia, hear me out. I walked into the kitchen. I said, I have an idea. And she said, All right, what's

the idea? And I said, Knoebels can't find people to work. I said, You have Monday off and I have Monday off. We should see if we could get hired as ride operators on Mondays at Knoebels. I said, What do you think? Do you want to do it? She's one word. She goes, Absolutely. I was like, yes, because she's always down. I was like, okay, so I'm going to call them and we're going to apply, and we'll do that and we'll see if they'll give us jobs. Julia and I decided to do this, and I thought, let's go and apply. I wanted show a picture of us up there applying. Julia said to me on no uncertain terms, if you show a picture of me in chapel, I promise you I will kill you.

She said, if you show a picture of me to the student body in chapel, I promise you that'll be the last day of your fatherly life. And I said, Okay, so I had to find something that was reasonably close, so this is the best I could find. Just work with me on it. Julia and I went up to Knoebels. Julia and I went up to Knoebles and we applied and they said, Well, yeah, this is very unconventional. Why do you want to work here again? How far away do you live? I said, Me and my beautiful daughter Julia would like to work here. Is there any chance you would hire us to be ride operators for a day? We were answering the call to service. And so they said, okay. And Nick was the guy that interviewed us, and he said, we'll give you a shot, but are you sure you actually want to do this? I said, I've never been so certain of anything in my life. We passed all the examinations and the tests and all the things, even the orientation, to do all of this. And we were awarded with our official shirts and our badges.

Look at this. Rides. I was like, They entrust me the opportunity to... You got to know that they must have been really desperate for help at that point. But they made me a ride operator. I was like, This is fantastic. I can tell you on my very first day, they put me on this ride. It's called the Spanish Bambini. I really appreciate the fact that we sang a little bit in some Spanish just a little bit ago because I got to operate the Spanish Bambini and someone stopped by and took a picture of me operating my first ride, and I was like, Look at my smile. Can you tell how happy I was that day? I was like, this makes me so, so happy.

But one of the things I did not want people to know while Julia and I were serving there, I didn't really want them to know anything about my life outside of that context. I just wanted to be John, the guy who shows up on Monday and operates rides. That's it. I just wanted to interact with people. So I didn't tell them anything about my life outside of that context. I didn't want them to know what I did outside. Now, there was one person that somehow he figured it out, but nobody else figured it out. So I just would show up, and I remember I heard one lady talking about it at one point. She said, Yeah, that guy drives far to work here on Mondays. Does that work out for him? But we were just happy. Julia and I were just happy to be able to serve in that context. We were pretty excited about it. But I have to tell you, and you probably notice this just in your own day-to-day life, service sounds glamorous right up until the point where someone treats you like a servant. Service always sounds really glamorous until you have that first experience where someone treats you as a servant. Well, I want you to look at this ride. This is one of the more popular rides in the kiddy section of Knoebles. The second day that I was working there, they stationed me at this ride. It's the kiddy hand cars, and it's just self-propelled, and kids go around the track and they're doing that. They said, We would like you to run this.

It's not a very glamorous ride to serve. One of the downsides is that you're in the sun or weather all day. At the end of the day, you feel that. There's nothing to shield you from it. But the other thing is it's a manual ride. Some of the rides, you just push a button and it goes. This one, kids get stuck, they knock these things off the track. I remember very early in the day, one of them got knocked off the track. I go over to it and I'm trying to fix it. In the midst of doing that, I discover that the maintenance department greases up the tread and the wheels and all that in the evening. I had grease all over my hands and arms, and I tried to wipe it off and it wouldn't come off. I thought, I'm covered in this now. It's the start of the day and I'm covered in it. Finally, somebody said, Come here, there's something that takes that off. They showed me something that takes that off. I'm like, All right, I'm covered in grease. But then other than that, I'm thinking, All right, it's going to be a great day.

It was my second day working there. I was really excited about it. Had a lovely conversation with somebody that stopped in. Her kids kept riding it, and she had questions about the history of the place. So I was telling her. I know way too much Knoebels history. I have fully invested myself in the ongoing work of this park. By the way, this park, that land was originally purchased by a pastor, Knoebel. The guy that officially bought it and got this whole thing going, he was a Presbyterian pastor. So we have a kindred spirit running this amusement park back in the day, or at least getting it going. But anyway, so also while I'm there, because things had been closed down, some people hadn't been coming to the park for a while. And a guy walks up to me, and his son is way too old for that little kid ride. He puts his son in line, and there's a height restriction that you're not allowed to be taller than about this. His son is about here. And I said to him, "I'm really sorry, your son is too tall to ride that." He "What do you mean he's too tall? We haven't been able to be here in two years. We're finally able to be back. He wants to ride it." I was like, "I don't make the rules here, but I do have to enforce them. He can't ride it. They don't feel that it's safe for larger children, older children, to ride it, and so he can't do it." The guy, no joke, lost his mind and started screaming at me. I remember thinking in that moment, I had a Gatorade in my hand. He's doing this. I was like, This is really my life right now. This guy is screaming his head off at me, and I expected it to stop. I thought he would get mad, and then it would stop. It didn't stop, and it keeps going. And I'm thinking, How are you still coming up with new ways to express that you're angry. Your son is too tall by like six inches. He can't ride the ride. I promise I'm not being purposely mean to your son. I'm sure your son is a jerk and just like you, and probably I should treat him mean, but I'm not going to. I'm going to try my best to be nice.

And he kept going. And then he left my station, and then he went all around the kids section screaming his head off for three minutes. And I looked at the people I was working with and I was like, this is an interesting moment in my life. This is an interesting moment. And I just thought, wow. So I had the opposite feelings of someone really appreciating my service and someone screaming their head off at me for my service that day. But then that night, as I was driving home, someone texted me and they said, Hey, is this you? And they sent me a link to something online. And I'm like, Oh, no. What on earth is that going to be? Well, it turns out, thankfully, it was the person that I had given them some history. She went online and made this big write-up about the fact that there was this kind operator of one of the rides who gave her the

history and let her kids ride the ride five times in a row. And what a wonderful group of people they have serving there at Knoebles, and I thought, wow, that is a very diametrically opposed day. Screamed at and praised in the same day. But then word started getting around to the people in our church family. Hey, Pastor John's working at Knoebles on Monday. People from all different spheres of our life started randomly showing up and just visiting. That's our worship director and his family, and they're like, Hey, what's up, pastor? The kids were so confused. They were like, We just saw him in church yesterday, and he also runs the rides at Knoebles. They're like, Some churches have good pastors. This is the one you got, kids. This is your pastor. They're like, Hey, can we take a picture with you? I was like, Sure. They took a picture, and I thought that was fun. Then more people started showing up and they're like, Hey, would you pose with us for this? I was the youth pastor at their church for a while, and then my sister and her kids are there. I was like, Okay, that's fine. Certainly happy to do that. And then even some people that work here at Cairn University even started showing up. I don't know if you know the Benjamin family, but then they started showing up and I thought, All right, this is fun.

It was fun to see that, but then I also saw somebody from high school who... I don't have a picture for this. I do have a picture, I'm not going to show it. Because her response was, I always thought you did more with your life than be a ride operator at Knoebels. So I've got people saying, Oh, how fun. And then other people being like, This is it for you, huh? And I thought to myself, I thought to myself, I could tell her that there's a couple other things going on in my life. But I was like, nah. No. I'm like, Yeah, this is it. It's a good life. Seasonal work if you can get it, but it's good life. I literally just let it be as it was. Then I showed up the next week and they gave me this. My boss gave me this. And I was like, What is this? And they said, Hey, we saw the write-up online. Thank you for operating with good customer service and showing people kindness. I was like, Oh. They're like, Do you know what that is? I was like, I have no idea. They said, You turn this in over at HR and they'll give you basically whatever you want, if you want merch, if you want dinner, a gift card for dinner at a restaurant, whatever.

And I looked at it and I thought, I just want the chip. I just want this thing. So I never turned it in. I kept it. I still have it. I was like, I just want this. So I don't even know what I could have redeemed it for. I just wanted that thing. So that certainly felt nice. But the longer we were there, Julia and I started to notice something. Each time we went up with the mindset that we were trying to apply from Mark 10, and our thought was, All right, here's the deal. Whatever they tell us to do, let's do it with the smile. Whatever they need us to do, let's just do it. Let's just be happy. Wherever they station us, let's just be glad about it. And we started to notice that our bosses really looked forward to Mondays when Julia and I would show up because we didn't complain. So I did take a picture of us with one of our bosses. Let me see if I could find it here. There it is. That's Barb. And Barb was... She's like, I love Mondays when you guys come up, because wherever we put you, me and my beautiful daughter Julia, they would allow us to serve and they would give us different responsibilities.

But they were like, We love the fact that you don't complain. We love the fact that you don't complain. And then, to top it all off, this something that I did not expect, but I was thrilled when it showed up. Look at the name. Hey, John. That's the guy that owns the place. Richard, Dick

Knoebel. Thanks for being on the team. I was like, Mr. Knoebel. I saw him once in the park and I took a picture with him several years prior and I was like, What do you say? Thank you, sir, for your vision and all that your family have done to provide such a wonderful park. I don't know what to say. It's Mr. Knoebel. His The name is on the place. But something else I noticed, many of the people I worked with were in their 80s. They were in their 80s. And so I started asking them, this one particular lady, I won't give you her name, but I will tell you a little bit about her story. I said, Why do you work here? And some of them said, Well, basically, the area has a lot of poverty. And so some of them say, We literally work here to make ends meet.

And then one of the ladies said to me, she said, "I literally have no family. All I have is my cat. And she told me her cat had six toes. I I don't know why that was important to the story. I have a cat with six toes and no family." She said, "My family are the people here at the park." I happened to mention that in a sermon, and especially the poverty aspect of the fact that these elderly people were doing that. A lady in my church came up to me and she said, "Here's a thousand bucks. Give it to whoever at the park you think should get this." I was like, Oh. I started thinking about it. Then I asked her, I was like, "Wait, can we give it to five people? Can we chop it up into \$200 blocks and we'll give it to five people?" She said, "Even better." I took the \$200, put it in five envelopes with a note with some Scripture, just to encourage people. But I thought, I don't want them to know where it came from. A friend of mine came and visited the park that day. She's a Cairn grad. I said, Listen, I've got the funnest job in the world for you today. I said, Each of these envelopes has \$200, and your job is to find elderly people that look like they're at least 80 years old who work here and just give them these. It's got Scripture in it and it's got 200 bucks and go around being like the person who can bless other people. She's like, "That's what's in those?" I was like, "Yeah, but don't tell them anything else. Just hand it to them and say, Thank you for being a blessing. Just give it to them." She went around, she selected five people, She blessed them with it. It was wonderful because at the end of the night, when we came back to give up our tickets and do all the things that we have to do at the end of the night, I hear all these elderly people saying, Yes, this lovely young lady came up and blessed us with some money. What do we do with. We've never had this happen before. It came from a lady in our church who just wanted to be a secret agent of blessing.

Now, speaking of the financial standpoint, to go up there each week, it cost me about \$100 between gas, tolls, all of that, food. I was like, Man, it's five hours of driving. It's expensive. Then I got my W2 at the end of the season when it was tax time. I was like, I wonder how much money I actually made. Well, here's the breakdown. Total pay for 13 weeks, \$1,172.99. Total cost for fuel, tolls, meals, \$1,300. Net profit, negative \$127.01. Totally worth it. I would absolutely do it again. But this is how it now ties in to what we're looking at from Scripture, because this is what I'm thinking. Most people can't wait to be served in this life. Most people that you and I encounter, even ourselves, let's be honest, let's point the finger at ourselves. Most people can't wait to be served. But here's the thing, Jesus is calling you, he's calling me to develop the mindset that he encourages the disciples to develop. He's calling us to show up and serve without asking for something in return. He came to serve. He came to give. He didn't come to get something. He came to give something.

If we adopt that mindset that Christ has demonstrated to us in Mark 10, this is what's going to happen. I think it's going to reduce our level of disappointment in life if we willingly adopt mindset, because I think there's a lot of people really disappointed in life because they're just waiting for someone to serve them. What does Christ call us to do? Adopt a different mindset, serve others. I got to tell you, there was a benefit, though, that I received in doing this. The benefit was I got to spend five hours every Monday in a car with my youngest child talking about all sorts of things. We even studied the Book of 2 Corinthians together. Going up, we'd study 2 Corinthians and then just talk life on the way back. I loved those car rides with my beautiful daughter, Julia. It was definitely a side benefit, but I have to tell you, every time we go up there, ever since 2022, we see one more person, and that's this guy right here, Nick. He's the guy that hired us. You know what he says every time we see him? No joke, he says it every single time. Would you like your old job back? Do you want to come back? Would you like your old job back? It's three years since...Should we do it again? Do you want to do it again? I think about it. No joke. I really do. But I love that. And I think, you know what? For a brief season, 13 Mondays, we had the opportunity without really asking for something in return to just in a unique way, in a place that's special to us, give a little something back, and then just watch what the Lord did with it. We didn't know what the stories would be ahead of time. We just knew that the Lord was calling us to do it, and it was a blast. And so my encouragement to us today is just as you approach your life, be one of those people who looks at what Jesus has to say about all of this and just thinks about the fact that even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve. Give his life as a ransom for many. He isn't asking you to do something that he wasn't willing to do first.

As Christ has come to serve us, we have the opportunity to serve others for his glory, sometimes in unique and fun ways. Let's pray together. Lord, thank you so much for the privilege that it is to be able to just think about this for a second, the fact that you came not to be served, but to serve us, to give your life as a ransom for many. Father, we're grateful for that work that was accomplished through your son, Jesus Christ. And Lord, as we go about our day, as we go about our life, we pray that we would go about this life with that mindset and that you would be the one that receives the glory, that it wouldn't be a life that we live thinking, You know what? I just want to be served. I want to be puffed up. We pray, Lord, that you'd help us to put those things aside and go about our lives and say, How can I serve others in your name and for your glory? Thank you, Lord, for setting us the example like a great leader does. We pray that we would follow the example that you've set.

We love you, Lord. I pray that your hand of guidance and blessing would be upon us all as we seek to live these things out. We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. Thank you. Thanks..