

10-2-19 Serving

READING: Luke 10:38-42

TALK

- Important point to start with: **God loves us and the promise we have in Jesus is eternal life for anyone who accepts him into their lives.**
- Jesus' remark about it being easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Could TIME, or lack of it be the modern equivalent?
- Martha was distracted. Probably lots of people there as the 72 had just returned from their mission. Hospitality very important in Middle Eastern society so lots to do. It was Mary's behaviour that was unusual.
- Jesus rebuked Martha and saw things differently. She was serving out of anxiety, not grace. If we heard Jesus speak in the flesh we probably wouldn't dwell too long on the catering arrangements.
- Could a desire for approval be dressed up to look like serving? Our serving needs to be for the right reasons.
- Jesus' example. His whole life was service- Mark 10 v 45 and was an example to his disciples. Washing the disciples' feet –John 13:13-17.
- Serving in the church has **benefits** – It allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts, experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience, surrounds us with other Christians who help us follow Jesus, increases our faith.
- God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.
- Cartoon of woman at home surrounded by chaos and smiling visitor departing saying "If there is anything I can do to help, just let me know." This reminded a pastor of his church where a few people did all the work and were overloaded.

- Jesus was clear that we are ALL called to serve. Paul's letters also said the same eg Ephesians 2:10.
- Some useful things to consider – Serving Jesus means being grateful, Psalm 100. Our service should be a reaction to God's love, not an attempt to get more of it.
- Serving Jesus means being available. He never minded being interrupted. Am I too focussed on what I have got planned to accommodate someone else's need?
- Serving matters. Much of what we spend our lives doing doesn't matter but any service really does, 1 Corinthians 15 v.58.
- Long list of jobs at church needing doing. If they don't get done, church doesn't function as it should. We are the church.
- If we have faith and want to build the kingdom here in Topley we have to work at it. Maybe if we all prioritise a little.....

QUESTIONS

1. What was the main thing that struck you or challenged you from the talk?
2. What are the different motives you have for serving? Can you identify with Martha?
3. Phil spoke of the benefits that can come from serving. What examples can you give from your own experience?
4. Which has been the busiest period of your life so far? How did you decide upon your priorities? What are the things that don't really matter that tend to use up your time?