

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: Not Optional – Empower the Hungry

What's this message about – One of the ways that we've limited our 'service imagination' is by thinking that 'real' service is a guilt-driven, boring venture. What we sometimes fail to grasp is that Jesus promised "abundant life." David, tells us in Psalms stated, "trust in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Paul, shared with the church in Corinth that "eye has not seen, nor ear heard the things God has in store for those who love Him." They were all talking about the here and now as well as the hereafter. The truth is, most people who have found their place of service will tell you that there is no life that can compare with one that allows room for *Christ-filled* imagination.

So, your next question should be, "Where?" Many believe they are not equipped to serve. Most do not see themselves becoming the next Mother Theresa or Billy Graham, but some of us are called and better equipped to serve within the church community- to be facilitators. Facilitator conjures images of radical boredom, but the root of the word is "facile," to make easy. To be a facilitator in the church is to say that you're helping to make it easier and more possible for the church to be the church. That is why Paul shares with the church at Ephesus that we, the church, are called to "equip the saints to serve for the building up of the body of Christ." Some of us are called to facilitate, empower and equip the future Mother Therasas and Billy Grahams, not to mention all the children, youth and adults who will eventually become our future leaders. God can use our current talents and experiences to make a supernatural difference within the church, we are only limited by our willingness to serve and openness to use our God-inspired imagination.

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think was the main point of Matt's message?*
- *Why do you think that Jesus ends just about all of His healing acts with a practical, next step, action for the one being healed (Mark 2, Luke 5)?*
- *How does this new definition of "facilitate" change your perspective on serving?*
- *If every believer is called to play some "facilitation" role in God's kingdom, what do you think yours might be?*

Do something about it: Ask yourself, "What do I do well and what types of things do I really enjoy doing?" Now look at the service/volunteer opportunities that are being offered. Use the first two questions as a lens in which you narrow down your search for where you will "facilitate." Use this information as your impetus to intentionally seek out your place of service.

Digging deeper: Mark 2; Luke 5; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 10:10; Psalm 37:4,5; 1 Cor. 2:6-9