

## Remnant Life Church

### *Servanthood*

Week 1

Deuteronomy 10:12

“Serving Begins in the Heart”

What images come to mind when you hear someone talk about serving?

- Waiters and waitresses?
- Forced labor?
- Acts of kindness?
- A tennis match?

Your perception of what it means to serve someone will, in no small measure, determine how willing you are to do so when the opportunity presents itself.

- Do you view serving others as demeaning?
- Is your schedule already so full that you can't think of adding one more thing?
- Or have you never been asked to serve, and you are waiting to be approached?

Now, within all those questions, add a few more...

- What is my responsibility to serve as a Christian?
- Does the Bible talk about serving each other?
- What did Jesus have to say about it?

Answering these questions begin with knowing where servanthood originates

- Serving others does not begin with a decision to physically involved in an activity or event
- It is not about clearing your calendar or moving some things around to free up a few hours
- The desire to serve is an outpouring of the condition of your heart.
  - Compassion for others is the seed of serving
  - Burning barn; owner called insurance agent; no answer; where is he?!; he tapped her on the shoulder; fighting the fire

The heart, also called the soul, is the core of our being and the very seat of God's presence in our lives

- Moses writes in **Deut 10:12** - *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*
  - The word for “heart” in the original language is *lay-vavh*
  - It means not only the heart of man, but also the inner part, soul, resolution, character, conscious, and seat of emotions and passions
  - The heart is the motivator of the mind which then triggers our actions

An individual's heart is also much more -

- It is the very condition of our salvation
  - **Rom 10:9** - *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

- It is where we keep the law of God
  - **Job 22:22** - *Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.*
  - **Psalm 119:11** - *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*
  - **Psalm 119:30** - *I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.*
- It is the place our hopes, dreams, and even fears have their origin
  - **1 Peter 3:15** - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*
  - **Psalm 37:4** - *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
  - **John 14:1** - *“Do not let your hearts be afraid. You believe in God; believe also in me.*

Just as your salvation, God’s word, and the emotions of your spirit is seated in your heart, so does a desire to serve come from that same place

- Let’s examine briefly the first instance of serving from a heart of love found in the Scripture
  - Jacob is the son of Isaac, the grandson of Abraham, and it is time for him to find a wife
  - He fell in love with a beautiful girl named Rachel, but she has an older sister
  - Rachel’s father said if Jacob worked for him for seven years, he could marry her
  - But on the night of the wedding, Jacob discovers that he has been tricked and instead he has married the older sister, Leah
  - He then worked seven more years to be permitted to also marry Rachel
- **Genesis 29:20** - *So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.*

Jacob had every right to be furious with Laban, his father-in-law, for deceiving him into marrying Leah before Rachel and having to work for an additional seven years

- But his heart was filled with love for Rachel and out of that love he worked faithfully even in unfair circumstances

Serving in love ignores the surroundings of the situation

- Serving in love is not concerned with who gets the credit
- It does not seek the “glamour detail” of an assignment
- It does not care if no one sees the service

Serving in love is an offering given to God

- As Christians, the love of God has been freely given to each of us
- Serving is a way for us to, not only bless others, but to show our gratitude to God for the love He has given us

- It is an offering
  - Not of money
  - But of time
  - Of ourselves

Next week – we will look at the model of serving given by the Perfect Servant – Jesus Christ