

Spiritual disciplines for a healthy church
8. Why do we serve?

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Introduction

- The *who* and the *where* makes a big difference
- **Four reasons** to serve:

Serving makes us more like Jesus

- Jesus' example (Mark 10:43-44, John 13, Luke 22:27)

Serving brings glory to God

- Using our gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- Not just in formal ways

Serving builds up the church

- The edification of the body (1 Cor. 12, 14, Eph. 4:11-13)
- Not just individual fulfillment

Serving brings pleasure and joy

- To God, others & ourselves (Heb. 13:16, 2 Cor. 6:10, Gal. 6:9-10)

Conclusion

Matthew 25v31-46 (NIV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Article by Kevin Yi: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-use-calling-avoid-serving/>