

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Keep Service Central

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Matthew 20:17–34

Theme: Do not ignore the call to serve because our Lord gave his life.

Introduction: Pets are often guilty of ignoring their owner when called (and children do the same with parents). Christian adults can also ignore their calling. Jesus Christ places a clear calling on his followers, and dismissing it would be tragically disobedient. To be a Christ follower means, among other things, to receive this calling and fully embrace it.

The text of Matthew 20:17–34 lists three ways to make sure we do not ignore our calling to serve:

1. Keep Central the Greatest Sacrifice (17–19)

- Jesus foretells his death a third time to his disciples.
- Jesus shares that the Son of Man (see Daniel 7:13–14) would be delivered over to the priests and the scribes.
 - The priests and scribes were the 'best of the best' in Israel; but even they failed to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of Man and condemned him to death.
- The priests and scribes handed Jesus over to the Gentiles, confirming that all of humanity—Jew and Gentile—is responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Jesus foretells his death a third time because he loves his disciples and desires to give them clarity.

2. Leave No Room for Selfish Ambition (20–28)

- The mother of James and John then asks Jesus if her sons may sit at his right and left hand in the coming kingdom.
- There is faith in the mother's request (there *will* be a kingdom), but her question is out of place and is selfishly ambitious.
- The disciples become indignant, showing how selfish ambition divides and betrays.
- Jesus lays out the calling on every disciple to live a life of servanthood, following the example of the Son of Man.

3. Take the Opportunity to Serve (29–34)

- A crowd gathers around Jesus and the disciples, including two blind men who call out to Jesus to heal them.
- The crowd rebukes them, but Jesus speaks with them and heals them.
- Jesus takes the opportunity to serve, once again exemplifying for his followers obedience to the call of the Father.

Questions:

1. In what ways do you need to apply the main thing (the gospel)?
2. Where do you see selfish ambition in your life? How can you practice contentment?
3. What opportunities do you have to serve?