

Saturday Afternoon, Nov. 6 3:00 p.m.
Keynote Assembly Auditorium

Lord, Teach Us to ServeDavid Powell

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Matt. 20:28). The world’s portrait of greatness and success stands in marked contrast to what they see in the life of Jesus. When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, He vividly demonstrated a unique approach to life—we are not on this earth to be served by others but to serve them.

Introduction

1. The text: “Even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45).
2. The parallel accounts: Matthew 20:28 and Luke 22:27.
3. The context:
 - a. Jesus blesses the children (Mark 10:13-16).
 - b. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22).
 - c. Jesus’ teaching about riches (Mark 10:23-31).
 - d. Jesus foretells of His sacrificial death (Mark 10:32-34).
 - e. The ambitious request of James and John (Mark 10:35-45).
 - f. Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).
4. The purpose: To learn how to serve others as our Lord served.

I. S – Sacrifice

- A. Serving the Lord or others requires sacrifice.
 1. “Even the Son of Man” refers to the long awaited Messiah or Son of God, who humbled Himself to serve others (Mark 10:45).
 2. He deserved to be served but gave Himself to a life of serving (1 Pet. 2:21-22).
 3. His death on the cross was sacrificial (Isa. 53:4-6).
 4. He became “poor” that we might become “rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

II. E – Empty

- A. Serving the Lord and others necessitates emptying ourselves of self.
- B. Jesus emptied Himself when He came to this earth (John 17:5).
- C. In our Lord’s life and death He emptied Himself (Phil. 2:5-8).
- D. Our lives must be characterized as empty of self and full of Jesus (Phil. 1:21).
- E. Genuine love for others is “unselfish” (1 Cor. 13:4-5).

III. R – Redemption

- A. Serving the Lord and others results in redemption.
- B. Jesus gave Himself a “ransom” for all (Mark 10:45).
- C. Our Savior’s death reconciles us to God (2 Cor. 5:21).
- D. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-20).
- E. As Jesus gave Himself for each of us, we must give ourselves to the service of one another (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16).

IV. V – Vision

- A. Serving the Lord and others comes from vision.
- B. Moved with “compassion,” Jesus looked up and saw the needs of others (Matt. 9:36-38).
- C. He challenged His followers to “look” up (John 4:34-38).
- D. When we close our eyes to the needs of others we cease to be serving as the Lord commands us to serve (1 John 3:17-18; 4:19-20).

V. E – Esteem

- A. Serving the Lord and others means esteeming the Lord and others before self (Phil. 2:1-4).
- B. However, this does not mean thinking more lowly of yourselves than you should (Rom. 12:3).
- C. What it does mean is that nothing should be done through selfish ambition (Phil. 2:3).
- D. Selfish ambition will destroy the church (1 Cor. 3:2-3).

Conclusion

1. All of these characteristics can be seen in our Savior’s washing of His disciples’ feet (John 13:14-15).
2. Jesus set before us a perfect example (1 Pet. 2:21).
3. If we follow in His steps or imitate Him, we will give our lives as His servants.



David Powell preaches for the North Jackson church of Christ in Jackson, Tennessee, and teaches Bible at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson. David and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Katie and Nathan.