

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How would you define a "Great Leader?"

2. Give examples of some great leaders of our times.

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Read Matthew 20:20-28.
 - a. What was mom's request?
 - b. Can you identify with her request?
 - c. Was it right?
 - d. What is Jesus saying?
 - e. Why is it hard for us to be okay with being at the end of the line?
 - f. Why is the idea of serving such a struggle with some people? Why?
 - g. Compare with Luke 22:24-27.

4. According to Jesus, what does a "Great" leader or person look like?
 - a. Someone said, "If we want to serve the way Jesus served, than we have to see people the way Jesus sees people."
 - b. Do you love people the way Jesus loves people?
 - c. Some people? Only family? Why or why not?

5. Francis Chan said, "God doesn't call us to be comfortable. He calls us to trust Him so completely that we are unafraid to put ourselves in situations where we will be in trouble if He doesn't come through."
 - a. Do you think people are more concerned with comfort than serving?
 - b. What is the last thing God called you to do that was out of your comfort zone?
 - c. Did you do it? Why or why not?

6. Erwin McManus said, "We are given one opportunity to pursue our dreams and fulfill our divine purpose. Every moment counts, and we must engage them with fierceness and zeal. Put an end to passive observation, paralyzed by the need for perfect opportunity, and start seizing the raw, untapped potential of your life with God."

Does this quote describe your attitude for God?

Are you prone to passively observe, or being paralyzed by the need for the perfect opportunity to serve?

7. Pastor Ruben said, "Great churches do two things that stand out to outsiders. The way they love and the way they serve. They do both with genuine joy." He also said, "Volunteering in the church is not about filling a slot. It's not about being forced to do something that you don't want to do. It's about partnering with God to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ."

What your view of serving or volunteering at ThornCreek?

8. How many hours per month do you serve God at ThornCreek Church? How many hours do you volunteer outside of church? Do you think it pleases God for you to use your gifts and strength in His church?
9. According to these verses, what is the purpose of serving in the church? Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; and Matthew 5:16.

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Volunteering in the church is not about filling a slot. It's not about being forced to do something that you don't want to do. It's about partnering with God to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.
- **Jesus teaches us...**If serving is beneath you, than greatness is beyond you. Have you ever considered serving as a pathway to greatness?
- Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)
- Commit to serving at ThornCreek? Please go to: ThornCreek.Church/serve (Click on the volunteer button!).