

Intro: Each Monday at staff meeting I have a short devotion for our staff. Typically I will look at the passage I am preaching
This past Monday we spent our time talking about what it means to serve on a Ministry Team.
All rolling along pretty good, with us talking about the importance of people “behind the scene”
Then Pastor Bill did it... “Well, I think Judy is the unsung hero...down in that financial office all day...numbers”
See...Just how much it meant to her to hear those words...tears filled her eyes, as one by one everyone agreed...unseen

Today I want to talk with you about what it means to serve on a Ministry team.

- Living Up: Getting our Priorities right: Moving from what “Is” to what “Should be”!!!
- Church: Worshipping; Gathering in a Group; Serving On A Ministry Team

Opportunities to Serve God and Serve others in His name;
What is a ministry team? At Riva we have about 30-40!

1 Cor 1:26ff

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1. Understand That Every Christian Is CALLED By God To Two Things.

1:26-2:8

Called/Chosen: to two different things:

~CALL: *To invite to oneself; to call out*

~CHOOSE: *To hand select for a specific purpose; to make a choice from among others*

God has both INVITED us into Relationship with Himself; AND CHOSEN us to Serve Him in specific ways

There is no such thing in the NT as a call to God in Relationship that is separated from a call to God in Service!

- Called To RELATIONSHIP With God: God in His Great Wisdom saw fit to work in our lives in 3 ways!
He calls us to Himself, and when He does that He accomplishes some amazing things in our life.
 - ~Righteousness: Lit = *Right standing with God; Equity of Character*
 - ~Holiness: Lit = *Holy; Purification or Sanctification*
 - ~Redemption: Lit = *Redeemed; Salvation; buys us back from slave market of sin*
- Called To SERVICE For God We are saved for a purpose!
 - ~Many people mistakenly believe that “ministry” is something that is reserved to a paid vocation (You were called 26)
 - ~God calls REGARDLESS of our natural talents. Not because of our great talents, gifts, abilities, wisdom (26-28)
 - ~God calls EACH of us to demonstrate His great power THROUGH us! (2:4-5)
 - ~God ENTRUSTS us with the message of His love and grace (secret things) 4:1
 - ~God EXPECTS faithfulness to the task He assigns 4:2

ILLUS: God is not looking for the talented, gifted, strong, smart, brave, ones with all the answers!

God is looking for 3 things:

~Faithful: Will you DO what I ask you to do?

~Available: Will you make room in your life for ME to work through you?

~Teachable: Will you lay down your wisdom and listen to what I tell you to do, and how to do it?

Talent, Ability, Strength, Position, Wisdom...None of those things are under our control.

But

Faithfulness, Availability, Teachability....ALL OF THOSE WE HAVE CONTROL OVER!

2. Understand Every Christian Is A Team Member WITH God In Ministry!

3:1-9

When we talk about serving on a ministry team, you need to keep in mind that God is always present!

He doesn't just call us, and throw us into service! He walks with us every step of the way.

When we show up to serve, to help, to provide, to care for, God is right there with us...

God's Fellow Workers: Co-laborer: Lit = *To labor alongside; To Work With,*

Illus: Yesterday @Food Pantry: Walked through...someone said...Amazing...give food, so many, God bless you

Here is the Reality of working With God: He is the boss...we are the Servants!

- We are all just servants Lit = *those who raise up dust by hurrying!* (Field hands; Waiter) Vs 5
- The Lord assigns our tasks Lit = *to place in someone's hands* (God determines what and where you serve!) vs 5
- God gives the results Lit = *to grow, to enlarge, or to increase* (God is the one who gives results!) vs 7

Illus: When you serve on a ministry team, You aren't serving alone. God is right there with you!

He Picks you for the job: He assigns you the task

He gives you the strength He guarantees the results

You are never alone in the process! You may FEEL alone...But that's because you aren't listening, in tune, walking with Surrendering to His presence. Serving Him is a learning process.

3. Remember Every Christian Will Be Rewarded For Their Service.

3:10-15

God calls us, God Equips Us, God Empowers us, God Walks With Us...And God REWARDS US!!!

But...notice...the discussion of the Reward comes with a warning!

- Warning: Be Careful (*keep eye on*) Lit = *Pay attention to what you are doing...*
- Quality: Different levels of quality Illus: *Are you building a Palace or a Mud hut!?*
- Tested: By fire *God is going to judge your service!*
- Reward...or Loss Quality determines Outcome *Not everything is acceptable!*
- There is some loss! Some get in...with the smell of fire on their clothes Jude

Illus: This is an amazing truth to me.

God calls me to himself

God calls me to serve Him...Equips, Empowers, Enables, Walks with, Gives the Increase...THEN..Rewards me!

But, this is also terrifying to me...because there is NOTHING that frightens me MORE, than knowing that at the day of judgment of my life, as I stand before Jesus..the one who loved me...died for me...hung on the Cross for me...the THOUGHT that I would stand before Him empty handed...terrifies me!

Imagine...looking at the nail scarred hands...the brow pierced by thorns....and offering nothing...or something judges as wood, hay and straw.

George Whitefield:

I am content to wait till the Day of Judgment for the clearing up of my character. And after I am dead I desire no other epitaph than this. Here Lies GW, what sort of a man he was the Great Day will discover.

CONCL:

Suppose your life was to be evaluated today.

What would happen?

When the time comes that you Stand Before Him...

What Will you offer?

Will it stand the evaluation of His gaze?

Serving On A Ministry Team does a LOT of different things.

1. Prepares you for the Day
2. Opportunity to Invest in something greater than yourself (Children baptism)
3. Gives you relationships that are amazing...(Glow of seeing the faces of the staff...stayed with me all day)
4. Gives you incredible satisfaction when you find YOUR place
5. Helps you accelerate both the speed and depth of your spiritual growth
6. Puts you on the front line of what God is doing in our world...Kingdom work
We PRAY it...Now we can LIVE it!

Find a place to serve...Try it..Children's Ministry; Awana; Eggstravaganza Food Pantry, Student Ministry; Tyler Heights