

Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 33 "I serve God by serving others."

Many people associate the word "service" with the idea of "involuntary servitude" or even "slavery". A person might be forced to take a job as a "servant" – if they can't find a good job. "Job success" means becoming a boss, maybe even a "chief executive officer" some day. Most people crave "financial independence", so that they don't have to work for anyone, and perhaps have enough money to hire servants. The Bible tells us:

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." (Rom 8:5-6 [NIV])

The question then is: What does the Spirit desire? Jesus lived a life full of the Holy Spirit, always doing what pleased the Father. On the night before He died:

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him." (John 13:3-5 [NIV])

Note a key word in the passage above – "so". Receiving ultimate authority *enabled* Jesus to serve fully – it did not *excuse Him from* service. When there is a great deal of rain so that more and more water accumulates behind a dam, the operators of the dam will release more and more water through the dam to keep the dam from bursting. When a person is more and more filled with the love and blessing of the Father, more and more love flows out to others – for the same reason. What does the flow of this love look like? It looks like Jesus!

- God will fill you to overflowing with His love, if you continually seek to know and obey Him.
- Jesus is our example of what this looks like – He laid down His life for us.
- The Father honored and glorified Jesus for what He did, and we *"are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."* (Rom 8:17 [NIV])

Ask yourself what your ideal job would be, and then ask WHY it is so ideal. You might especially like the idea of making a lot of money, or of not having someone in a position of authority over you. Now ask yourself whether you can "make" more than God can give you. More importantly, ask yourself how you feel about God being in a position of authority over you. Adam and Eve agreed with Satan in not liking that part, so God revoked their citizenship in His kingdom. In short, they got what they wanted. Jesus described Himself as "gentle and humble in heart", LOVED the authority of the Father, and always served Him. His passion was to serve you by giving His life. What is your passion?
