

**THE BIG IDEA: We're never more like Jesus than when we serve.**The Take-Off

If we could have hooked up a machine up to you during the past week and kept count of how many times you were “self oriented” and how many times you were “others oriented,” which would have the higher score?  
You're not alone.

Isn't it amazing how we don't have to train ourselves or our kids to be selfish?

It's almost like it comes naturally.

Actually, it is.

Romans 5:12 / Adam brought death

Psalms 51:5 / We were born as sweet bundles of sin

We've taken 3 weeks to tackle the idea that most of us are more self·ish than we wish we were

The transformation process can be a struggle, and that struggle is real, y'all!

**Ephesians 4:22** / “throw off” the old nature

**Ephesians 4:23** / let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes

**Ephesians 4:24** / put on (literally, like putting on clothes) the new nature

Did you catch that process? Take the dirty clothes off, get a Spirit bath, and put on clean clothes

Over the last 2 weeks we've looked at how WORSHIP and COMMUNITY are part of that process

This morning, let's wrap the series up looking at the role SERVING plays in our transformation from selfish to Christlike  
I can think of at least three things the serving does in the life of a believer...

**1. Serving connects**

- a. Turn with me to **1 Peter 4:7-10**
  - Notice what the church was to do as the end of the world approached - PRAY!
  - Makes sense, but that wasn't all
  - They were to continue to show love for each other
  - How? Using their gifts to serve each other
  - Serving connects us to each other
- b. But not only to each other
- c. Look at **Matthew 25:34-40**
- d. Serving connects us to Jesus
- e. That is a game-changer! When we serve people, we're serving Jesus.

**2. Serving corrects**

- a. It doesn't just connect us, though. **It also corrects** us.
- b. Serving is one of the 3 practices that God uses to transform us, so there must be a corrective element involved (and there is!)
- c. We learn in **Galatians 5:13** that serving corrects our pride
  - Remember that we have a new nature that we're supposed to throw off
  - Sometimes we revert back to the “old comfortable” clothes, don't we?
  - That favorite t-shirt that your wife keeps trying to throw away!
  - Paul says here in Galatians that, if we're not careful, we'll use our new freedom to serve ourselves
  - Serving others corrects the pride that raises its head from time to time and tells us we're the most important person in the room - that our desires matter more than anyone else's
  - Serving kills that
- d. Serving also corrects our perspective
- e. **Matthew 23:11** / Jesus flips everything upside down by saying to be great, we must serve
- f. This Kingdom perspective is the opposite of this world's perspective

**3. Serving reflects**

- a. One last thing serving does. It connects and corrects, and finally, **serving reflects**.
- b. First, it reflects our loyalty to Jesus

- c. We see this in **Colossians 3:23-24**
  - Paul encourages all of us in whatever circumstance we may find ourselves to work hard and serve hard not because the people we're serving necessarily deserve it, but because we're loyal to OUR authority
  - How could slaves serve masters sincerely? Because they were loyal to a higher Master!
- d. Second, it **reflects the life of Jesus**
- e. **Mark 10:45**
  - When we serve, we are imitating the life of Jesus
  - There should be something about how we serve that reminds people of Him!

## The Landing

Let me make a bold Big Idea: **we're never more like Jesus than when we serve**

Let's close this by looking at one more text

**John 13:1-5**

Serving isn't about ignoring who you are or putting people first because you think you're not worth anything

Serving comes from a CORRECT view of who we are: love your neighbor AS (you love) yourself

Jesus knew who he was, where He'd come from and where He was going

That healthy self-awareness allowed Him to take a knee and serve

If I could, let me close this morning - and the entire self·ish series - with a 3 word application: TAKE A KNEE!

Here's Jesus - at the end of His ministry - taking a knee

You know what it means when a QB takes a knee at the end of a game? Victory.

Serving reflects our victorious King to a culture that desperately needs a win!

So take a knee...serve others...and when they tell you that you remind them of someone, never stop saying the name of Jesus.

Let's pray.