



Serving the Kingdom

(1 Peter 4:10)

Choosing Jesus

- C** — Choosing Jesus
- H** — Holding to His Word
- O** — Obeying His Commands
- O** — Opening Your Life to Community
- S** — Serving the Kingdom
- I** — Investing in Others
- N** — Nurturing Faithfulness
- G** — Glorifying God

Review

This is the fifth lesson in our Jesus Journey series.

C - Choosing Jesus

Choose to follow Jesus, surrendering your life to Him and beginning your journey of faith.

H - Holding to His Word

Choose to root yourself in Scripture, for the sake of knowing Him and growing to spiritual maturity.

O - Obeying His Commands

Choose obedience, prioritizing God's will above everything else, and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape your character and actions to reflect Christ.

O - Opening Your Life to Community

Choose to engage in fellowship with other believers as the family of God, for support, accountability, and encouragement.

The next stage of our Jesus Journey...

S - Serving the Kingdom

Choose to serve, using your gifts, resources, time, and talent to build God's Kingdom.

◆ Introduction

- **Our Calling: FOLLOW ME TO ME**
(Matthew 4:19) — And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- **Our Mission: THE GREAT COMMISSION**
(Matthew 28:18–20) — And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you....

THE CONTEXT OF OUR PASSAGE

Peter is writing to believers scattered across the region that we know as modern-day Turkey. They were facing hostility and persecution in a pagan world, under the Emperor Nero.

Peter is encouraging them concerning how they should live in this world. At the beginning of chapter 4, he challenges them to not live like the world does, but live for God’s will. The kingdom should now be their passion and old passions should be forgotten.

(1 Peter 4:7-10) —

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.*

◆ #1 — A True Disciple has been Gifted by God

(1 Peter 4:10) —

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

- **Each** — Every single disciple receives a gift (or gifts) from God.
- **Has Received** — If you're saved, it's in you already. It's a matter of *discovering* your gifts and *growing* in them.
- **Gift** — Something God has *given* to you.

◆ What does the Bible say about each of us being gifted?

THERE ARE A VARIETY OF GIFTS - GIVEN ACCORDING TO GOD'S GRACE

- (1 Corinthians 12:4–6) — Now there are *varieties of gifts*, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are *varieties of service*, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are *varieties of activities*, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
- (Romans 12:4–6) — For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having *gifts that differ according to the grace given to us*, let us use them...
- Team Gifts = Activities performed
Evangelism, Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation, Shepherding, Mercy-Showing, Serving, Giving, Administration (Leadership)

◆ #2 — A True Disciple is Called to Serve

(1 Peter 4:10) —

As each has received a gift, *use it to serve one another*, as good stewards of God's varied grace...

- **Use It** — we have gift(s), we're commanded to use them...
 - **To Serve** — To help, support, and build up...
 - **One Another** — The Family of God. Service binds us as a family, meeting needs to strengthen and to build up the body of Christ.
- **NOTE:** We all have a part to play. Do your part. If you don't do your part, the church will suffer.

◆ What does the Bible say about serving?

OUR GIFTS ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS (THIS MEANS SERVING)

- (1 Corinthians 12:7) — ...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit *for the common good*.

WE'VE BEEN MADE FREE FOR THE SAKE OF SERVING

- (Galatians 5:13) — For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but *through love serve one another*.

WE SHOULD SERVE WITH ZEAL AND FERVENCY

- (Romans 12:10–11) — Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal [*don't be lacking in zeal*], be fervent in spirit, *serve the Lord*.

- **NOTE:** We are commanded to be zealous (eager) to serve.

◆ #3 — A True Disciple is a Steward

(1 Peter 4:10) —

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, *as good stewards of God's varied grace...*

- **What is a steward?** - a person who has been given responsibility to manage something that belongs to someone of a higher authority. A steward manages what belongs to someone else.
- **Good Stewards** — We're entrusted with God's gifts to handle wisely - to be good stewards.
- **God's varied grace** — Our gifts, time, and resources are expressions of His grace, a sacred trust.

◆ What does the Bible say about being a steward?

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP IN SMALL THINGS LEADS TO GREATER THINGS

- (Luke 16:10) — “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”
- NOTE: God will often give grace in increasing measure depending on the faithfulness of the steward. Are you wanting to be used more by God? Be faithful with the grace He's given you.
[BE WILLING TO SERVE IN THE SMALL THINGS]

STEWARDS WILL EVENTUALLY STAND BEFORE THE KING

- (1 Corinthians 4:2) — ...it is *required* of stewards that they be *found faithful*.
- (Romans 14:12) — So then each of us will *give an account* of himself to God.
- NOTE: Don't overlook the fact that you will stand before God and give an account.

◆ #4 — A True Disciple Follows Jesus' Example

Mark 10:45 —

For even the Son of Man *came not to be served but to serve*, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- **Son of Man** — The Chosen One of God, the Messiah. Fully deserving to BE SERVED, but...
- **Not to Be Served** — He did the opposite of other leaders. He chose humility and service.
- **Gave His Life** — He did the ultimate service. He poured Himself out in service. (1 John 3:16 - *...we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*)

◆ What does the Bible say about Jesus' example?

HE EMPTIED HIMSELF

- (Philippians 2:5–8) — Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by *taking the form of a servant*, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

JESUS WASHING THE DISCIPLES FEET (EVEN JUDAS)

- (John 13:12–15) — When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ *For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*
- (Matthew 23:11–12) — *The greatest among you shall be your servant.* Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

◆ Closing

S - Serving the Kingdom

Choose to serve, using your gifts, resources, time, and talent to build God's Kingdom.

Practical Steps

- Start praying (*Lord, how would you have me serve?*)
- Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey (coming soon)
- Start doing something (lest you do nothing)
- You may have to test some things out

Make Serving a Daily Mission

- It's not just about your ministry within the church, but in your areas of influence throughout your day to day life.

● **QUESTIONS:**

- If someone were to make an assessment of your day to day life, would they find that you are truly serving the Kingdom?
- What changes need to happen in your life right now to ensure that you are obeying God in the area of serving?