

Devotion – Day 7 – In Service for the Lord – Life Week 2023

Bible readings: Matthew 25:40, Luke 10:29, and 1 Timothy 1:12

“I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service” (1 Timothy 1:12).

As faithful Christians motivated by what God has done for us in sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior, we respond with our service. It’s that simple. Yet, whom are we serving? Luther said, “God does not need our work, but our neighbor does.” We are inspired to serve in gratitude for what we have received, so we then serve our neighbor in response.

When Jesus was asked, “*Who is my neighbor?*” He responded in Luke 10:29 with the parable of the Good Samaritan. What a true example of service as the Samaritan stopped to help a total stranger in need of medical care on the side of the road after he had been robbed and beaten nearly to death. A priest and a Levite, both religious leaders, had already passed by, intentionally walking on the other side of the road to avoid helping this man that didn’t meet their standards. Yet, Jesus’ example of how to do the right thing had everything to do with serving our neighbor as He then said, “*You go, and do likewise.*”

There are so many ways to be in service for the Lord. Jesus was the ultimate example of servanthood as He held nothing back in serving our needs in His death and resurrection. Be a willing servant. Perhaps you are called to preach or teach, or perhaps you are meant to give of your time at church or a local pregnancy center or nursing home, helping those in need. Consider joining or starting a Life Team or Life Chapter in your church or community. Sometimes, just giving of your time to be there for someone when they need a listening ear is important to bring comfort and care. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40: “... **as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.**” May you find joy in your service, knowing God has called you to be like the Good Samaritan, helping others through your Christian service as you meet them along the road of life.

Prayer: Dear Lord, although I am not worthy, I thank You for calling me to be a servant to help my neighbors. I ask that You bless the work I do. Allow me to be a witness to Your amazing love and grace. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.