**SATURDAY February 18, 2017 1 Peter 4:8-11**

Too often, we have a “one size fits all” idea of what it means to serve. In fact, there are as many different forms of service as there are people. This letter calls Christians to “use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” Or, as Paul wrote elsewhere, “If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?” (1 Corinthians 12:17) The call is to be yourself, and to make sure “being yourself” includes being a servant.

• What makes it vital that loving one another deeply form the context within which we use any of our gifts? What are some of the varied gifts of others that have blessed you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Lifting Our Church Family in Prayer**

**Extended Care Facilities**

* Dot Stone
* Donna McFadden
* Bill Breckel

**Prayers for Military, Law Enforcement, and**

**Fire Department**

* Tyler Fix
* Nick Imperiale
* Mark Kazee
* Kyle Knottnerus
* Mike Morales
* Ryan Mugridge
* Brian Vautin

**Prayers of Praise, Baptisms:**

Alyson Skai Andrews 2/12/2017

Jason Michael Bond 2/19/2017

**Prayers of Healing**

* Alice Lilly
* Rik Dejong
* Alta Peekstock
* Noelle Froelich
* Mike Dixon
* Bill Skinner
* Becky Elliott
* John Hall
* Hazel Gray
* Jim Humphrey
* Jimmy Meeks
* BJ Brodie
* Louise Beemon
* BJ Brodie
* Don Harder



**Sermon Series:** 4 Words Every Christian Should Know

**Sermon**: Love

**Date**: Sunday February 12, 2017

**Scripture**: 1 Corinthians 8:1-3

*Now concerning food offered to idols, we know that all of us possess knowledge. This knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know, but if anyone loves God, he is known by God.*

**Sermon Notes**

**Daily Study Guide**

**MONDAY February 13, 2017** **Mark 10:35-45**

Two ambitious brothers sought an “in” for high posts of power in Jesus’ coming kingdom. The other disciples were upset - not, it appears, because they thought the request was wrong, but because they hadn’t thought of it first. Jesus said they had all badly misunderstood the way his kingdom works. He did not come to be served, but to serve.

• Jesus said being “great” among his followers meant being “servant of all” rather than “lording it over” people. What are the qualities of people you think of as “great”? How do those qualities fit with Jesus’ way of defining greatness? What can you do to open yourself to God to grow these qualities in you?

• The brothers said to Jesus, “We want you to do for us whatever we ask.” To what extent can you identify with that approach to God? Part of Jesus’ reply was, “You don’t know what you are asking.” Looking back, can you see times when you didn’t know what you were asking? How has God blessed you in ways you couldn’t value at the time?

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**WEDNESDAY February 15, 2017 John 13:1-17**

Jesus’ act was shocking. “Losing sandals and personally washing someone else’s feet was considered servile, most commonly the work of a servant or of very submissive wives or children” (The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament). Jesus said he did it as our “Lord and Teacher.” He called us to have the same spirit of service for one another.

• John’s gospel used multi-layered language. Jesus “took off his outer clothing” (v. 4) and “put [it] on” (v. 12) uses the same Greek verbs as John 10:17 (“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.”) Washing the disciples’ feet, John was saying, acted out the meaning of Jesus’ death. In what ways might Jesus’ example call you to serve family, friends or others more deeply?

• Peter didn’t want to let Jesus wash his feet. Many of us are high achievers, more at ease with “earning” than with “receiving.” How are you doing at admitting your need, and receiving Jesus’ grace and love as a gift you neither deserve nor have earned?

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**TUESDAY February 14, 2017** **Luke 22:19-32**

Luke includes some of the same language we saw in Mark yesterday. But Luke puts it in the setting of Jesus’ last supper the night before he died on the cross, a reminder of how far Jesus went in being a servant. He adds Jesus’ touching words about praying for Peter, and the call for Peter to be a source of strength to others.

• “My body given for you….my blood poured out for you.” Have you ever had a boss or leader serve you in a spirit like Jesus’? If so, how did that affect you? How can servant leadership be more effective than self-serving, “perk”-demanding leadership?

• Have you ever wondered why you should pray for another person? Doesn’t God already know what that person needs better than you do? Jesus told Peter he had prayed for him. Yet Peter failed, denying that he knew Jesus, but then repented and became a strong leader in the church. So was Jesus’ prayer answered or not? Are you at peace praying for others even if there is an element of mystery about just how it works?

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**THURSDAY February 16, 2017 Romans 3:21-24**

2 Kings 24-25 tell about the Babylonians’ capture of Jerusalem. They were destructive and brutal, smashing the city and hauling its leading citizens into exile. Yet from the ruins of Jerusalem Jeremiah wrote to the exiles, telling them to pray for the prosperity and peace of Babylon. Serving even enemies (Matthew5:44) was a part of Jesus’ prophetic heritage.

•In Jeremiah 28:3, Hananiah (a false prophet) insisted the Israelite exiles would be back in Jerusalem within two years. Jeremiah promised a future with hope, but said it would take seventy years to arrive. Can you continue trusting and serving even if the outer rewards of following God are deferred? What helps you grow in patience?

• Josiah was the good king who wept when someone read the lost scroll from the Temple to him(2Chronicles 34). That reader was Shaphan. Now Jeremiah trusted his letter to Shaphan’s son, Elasah. Whether you’re a parent or not, how are you investing in the lives of the next generation? How are you passing on your faith and values? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY February 17, 2017 Philippians** **2:25-30**

Meet Epaphroditus, one of the unsung heroes of the Bible. He left his home town, Philippi, and went to serve the needs of the apostle Paul. We don’t know a lot of details, but it’s clear that as he pursued this mission, he nearly lost his life. Even as he sent him back to his church family, Paul rejoiced in the dedicated, loving service this man had given him.

• Paul began this chapter by calling Christians to have “the same attitude of mind that Jesus had” (Philippians 2:5). Epaphroditus’ example says that this is not just theory; it actually happens. In what ways are you able to make yourself radically available to serve others? In what areas do you want to grow in this quality?

• Paul called Epaphroditus “my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier.” Yet he sent him, and also Timothy, whom he cherished (v. 20-22), to Philippi to bless that church. In what ways did Paul model the spirit of service, and not just preach it? In what ways can you share people you value with others, rather than trying to keep them for yourself?

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