Serving Others In A Self-Centered World

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INTRODUCTION

- There are many people who are quite shocked to find out that the world does not revolve around them. We think we are the center of everything.
- They've got to learn that others are more important.
- As we grow up, we have to learn that we are not the center of life and the center of everything.

1 Examples of Self-Centered Thinking

Genesis 3:6; Genesis 6:1–2; Joshua 7:20–21

- She saw something that was going to be pleasing or beneficial to her, and she took it. Maybe that is the very essence of sinful behavior.
- She's not concerned about God. She's not concerned about her husband. She is only concerned about herself in that moment. It was all about Eve.
- Again, we have this language of seeing and taking. They give no thought to anything but their own desires.
- He saw something of value and thought, I'd like to have that. And without thinking of anyone else, he took it. It was all about Achan.

2 David Saw, and He Took

2 Samuel 11:2–4; 2 Samuel 12:1–8

- He saw something beautiful. And he took it. It was all about David, and that was all that mattered to him.
- Nathan says, You are the man.
- David, like so many before and so many after, saw something he wanted, gave no thought to anyone else, and just took it. This is what self-centered thinking looks like.

3 Examples of Servant-Hearted Thinking

Genesis 24:15–20; Isaiah 6:1–8

- We are expected to serve, to take care of others' needs ahead of our own.
- When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.
- Then I said, Here am I, send me.
- Isaiah's thought seems to be, I'm already here. Let me do it.

4 Dorcas Was Full of Good Works

Acts 9:36–39

- She was full of good works and acts of charity.
- They were standing around talking about what a great servant she was. Because that is what makes a lasting legacy.
- At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what we look like or how hard we can make people laugh. God wants to know if we've been serving or not.

5 Paul Will Most Gladly Spend and Be Spent

2 Corinthians 12:15

- I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.
- I'm willing to empty it all out for you. Whatever I've got to do, I will drain myself of energy for you.
- Because at the bottom of his heart, he cared for others.
- From someone who had realized that the world did not revolve around them.

6 Jesus Took the Form of a Servant

Philippians 2:1–11

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. But in humility. Count others more significant than yourselves.
- But emptied himself. Taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
- That's what service looks like. To go from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows for the sake of somebody else.
- That's the servant we follow, and that's the example that has been set for us.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you are a Christian, this is the life you signed up for. It's a life of service to any and everyone you come into contact with.**

MY NOTES