The Joy of Serving

Ken Chapman · Philippians 2:1–30

INTRODUCTION

- But he writes these four chapters, crying out to his brethren and to his Lord. Rejoice. Joy. At least 19 times in this short epistle.
- I think we found a role model in dealing with the miseries of life and being able to see joy in them.
- In an epistle, a short epistle about joy, about one fourth of that is going to be talking about serving others. Do you see the connection between joy and service?

1 Servanthood Is Something God Expects and Demands

Philippians 2:1–4

- True joy is going to be found in serving others.
- Let each one of you look not out for his own interest, but for the interest of others.
- Paul commanded them to be united. Be of the same mind.
- It's high time that I quit giving lip service to the idea of unity and service and actually start practicing.

2 The Enemy of Unity

James 4:1; Philippians 2:4

- Where do wars and fights come from among you?
- Why are they conflicts among you, James says? It's because of your selfish pleasures.
- If there's conflict, if there's problems, James says, it's because you're being selfish.
- Paul says if there's to be unity, and if there's to be joy, it's going to be found in you being selfless.

3 Our Lord and Savior: True Humility

Philippians 2:5–8; Philippians 2:9–11

- That one word that should come to mind when we think about our Lord is humility.
- Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.
- What is it that you're selfishly white knuckled hanging on to? Could be your money.
- Because Jesus humbled himself, the Father exalted him.
- God will exalt you if you'll humble yourself and serve.

4 Salvation Is Connected to Servanthood

Philippians 2:12–14

- Work out your own salvation in fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do his good pleasure.
- When you want to work out your salvation, get on your knees and wash somebody's feet.

- You work out your own salvation by not seeking your own interest, but seeking the interest of others.
- Service, if it's true service, has to be done from the heart. It has to be genuine. It has to be free of grumbling and complaining.

5 Three Individuals Held Up as Examples of Service

Philippians 2:17; Philippians 2:19–22; Philippians 2:25–27

- Paul didn't cry out misery. He cried out in joy. Because if I die, I died serving you.
- And so Paul teaches us to serve with joy.
- Timothy teaches us that service brings togetherness.
- You want to increase your unity? Serve. You'll be united with those whom you serve.
- Epaphroditus teaches us and shows us that service often comes with sacrifice. And that's okay.
- Service leads to unity. And service brings joy.

THE CHALLENGE

What will you do today and this week to bring about joy and unity in your life and in the life of this family here? Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, without grumbling and complaining, by serving one another.

MY NOTES